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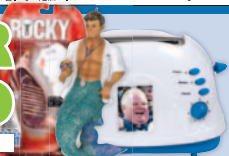
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THE BEST OF THE WORST HOLIDAY GIFTS • PAGE 24



TRAVEL: EUROPE



Mons, Belgium, celebrates cultural capital status

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TRAVEL: PACIFIC



Osaka Castle a testament to Japanese might

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Florida State deals with off-field chaos ahead of title game

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More victims report assaults to military

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

Nearly 20,000 troops were sexually assaulted last year, according to estimates based on an anonymous survey released Thursday, a decrease from 26,000 in 2012, when the Pentagon last conducted the survey, but virtually identical to the 2010 estimate.

At the same time, the per-

centage of victims who reported crimes increased from 11 percent in 2012 to 24 percent in 2014, according to the report.

While the Department of Defense believes the results show "substantive, comprehensive progress" in combating the crime, critics of the military justice system called the numbers "appalling."

Every two years, the military

conducts an anonymous workplace- and gender-relations survey of thousands of active and reserve troops, asking how many have been sexually assaulted in the previous year. The percentage of respondents who say they have experienced unwanted sexual contact is then applied to the total number of troops in the military, creating the estimate of how many troops

have been sexually assaulted.

Additionally, the Pentagon releases data each spring about the sexual assaults that have been reported to law enforcement and commanders.

There is always a significant gap between the number of sexual assaults estimated to have occurred and the number reported.

SEE SURVEY ON PAGE 4



PROTESTERS FLOOD NEW YORK STREETS

No indictment in chokehold death sparks demonstrations | Page 11

Protesters gather at Times Square on Wednesday following the announcement that the New York City police officer involved in the chokehold death of Eric Garner would not be indicted — a case that drew comparisons to the deadly police shooting in Ferguson, Mo.

JULIO CORTES/AP

Defense budget includes benefit cuts, money for war strategy | Page 6



QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"If you wander off into China, you will be shot."

— Associated Press reporter Eric Talmadge, on a warning he and a companion photographer received while traveling on a road in North Korea to places not previously visited by foreign journalists

See story on Page 12

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ON STRIPES.COM

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5. Air Force pilot killed in Middle East crash identified

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Shifting Gears

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MILITARY

US troops could depart Liberia soon

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — About the end of the year, most of the nearly 3,000 American troops deployed in Liberia to fight an Ebola epidemic will finish their work and will be ready either to start returning home or to go assist another country, the top U.S. general for Africa operations said Wednesday.

So far, AFRICOM commander Gen. David Rodriguez told reporters at the Pentagon, home appears to be the more likely destination.

The lead U.S. agency for the response to Ebola, the U.S. Agency for International Development, has indicated troops probably won't be needed in Sierra Leone or Guinea, two other nations that

are part of Operation United Assistance.

"Right now, USAID does not think we'll have to do that, but they're continuing to monitor that very closely," Rodriguez said. The bulk of the troops are doing engineering work in Liberia, but a downturn in the infection rate there caused the number of treatment centers they were expected to build to drop from 17 to 10. Most will be only half as big as originally planned. Civilian agen-



Rodriguez

cies are increasingly able to take on logistical work, he said.

Should the USAID decide U.S. troops are needed in the other nations, which are enduring some smaller Ebola outbreaks than the one that struck Liberia, Rodriguez said the deployment wouldn't rival the size of the current one in Liberia.

More than 6,000 people have died of Ebola infection in the three countries, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Rodriguez also said that in about 30 days the military would review whether the current policy requiring a 21-day quarantine for troops returning from West Africa is still necessary. Several groups of returning servicemem-

bers have either entered or passed through the quarantine process, and there have been no reported exposures to the disease.

"It'll be about confidence and ensuring the people who have had minimum risk or no risk [of exposure] to the disease, if they're able to do it without [quarantines]," he said.

With the downturn in cases, Operation United Assistance may come to a close sooner than he had previously estimated in October, when he said it could last a year, Rodriguez said.

"Right now, I'd probably say it could be a little less than that," he said.

carroll.chris@stripes.com
Twitter: @ChrisCarroll_

High costs threaten vets' access to hepatitis C drug

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A new drug holds the potential to cure hepatitis C in tens of thousands of veterans but will require billions of dollars in new spending to cover the cost, Department of Veterans Affairs officials told a Senate panel Wednesday.

The department has requested \$1.3 billion from Congress to buy Sovaldi, a drug approved last year for the treatment of the potentially deadly liver disease. But the money will buy treatment for only about 30,000 infected vets, while as many as 114,000 might need it, said David Ross, director of the VA's HIV, hepatitis C and public health pathogens programs.

Sovaldi requires a shorter treatment period and has fewer side effects and a higher cure rate than previously existing maintenance treatments that are long and painful and sometimes require liver transplants. Providing it to all the veterans at the current price of more than \$500 per pill could cost the VA another \$2.6 billion.

The VA has cut its cost for the drug in half through negotiations with the company that makes Sovaldi, Gilead Sciences Inc., but is still asking for more than \$1 billion in new funding to begin treatments, said Michael Valentino, pharmacist and chief consul-

tant to the VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services.

For now, the department is shifting money to provide Sovaldi to vets who request it, he said.

Veterans, especially those from the Vietnam War, are infected with hepatitis C at a higher rate than the rest of the population. Research suggests that many contracted the virus before it was recognized through blood transfusions and other medical care; other factors are intravenous drug use common during the war, the fact that the VA generally serves a lower socioeconomic class, and that transfusions were saving lives on the battlefield in great number for the first time.

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee called the hearing after the chairman, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., saw the high-dollar request from the VA earlier this year. In July Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, asked Gilead to explain why the high U.S. price — \$1,000 per pill — differs from that in other countries as well as from a previous U.S. estimate.

Sanders criticized Gilead for the prices and reaping large profits while veterans face possible rationing due to the expense, calling it a moral issue. According to the senator, Gilead bought the original company that developed

Sovaldi for \$11 billion and stands to make about \$200 billion on the drug.

"What we are looking at is very clearly an excessive profit and a lot of that profit is going to be paid by the taxpayers in this country," Sanders said.

Gilead Sciences declined to testify. Gilead spokeswoman Michele Root told Stars and Stripes that the drug is worth the expense because it simplifies and shortens treatment to just eight weeks and can help patients avoid the cost of treating liver disease.

It offers a "cure at a price that will reduce hepatitis C treatment costs in the short-term and deliver significant healthcare savings to the healthcare system over the long-term," Rest wrote in an email response.

The ranking Republican on the Senate committee stood up for the pricing. Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., said companies such as Gilead take large financial risks and navigate a testing-and-approval "valley of death" when developing new drugs.

"Innovation is expensive ... I think the one thing we agree on is we don't want to give up innovation," Burr said.

Instead of attacking prices, he said Congress and the VA should look at how much could be saved

in the long-term by treating veterans known to have hepatitis C.

"I believe the price of this particular drug should be looked at on the macro level," Burr said.

Still, it remains unclear how the VA will deal with the high costs of treatment. Valentino said the department expects more new hepatitis C drugs to be released this month and next year, which could provide veterans alternatives to Sovaldi.

But new competitor drugs are not always cheaper once they hit the market, and the VA will likely be forced to ration what it can afford, said Robert Weissman, the president of the Washington-based consumer rights advocacy group Public Citizen.

"We are still going to be stuck with a super-high price because the starting price was so high," Weissman told the Senate.

The high costs of Sovaldi and other new drugs soon to be released will likely become unsustainable for the VA and other government health care programs, said John Rother, president and chief executive officer of the National Coalition on Health Care, a nonprofit, nonpartisan group that advocates for affordable health care.

"Sovaldi is just the canary in the coal mine when we look at what is coming at us," he said.

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MILITARY

Survey: Some data in report are a 'red flag,' senator says

FROM FRONT PAGE

In 2012, when 26,000 troops were estimated to have been sexually assaulted based on the anonymous survey results, just 3,374 had reported.

The number of reported sexual assaults increased dramatically to 5,061 — up 50 percent — in 2013, then increased by 8 percent in 2014.

Previous anonymous surveys have been administered by the DOD, but this year's survey was conducted by the Rand Corp., which used the formerly used questionnaire for a random sample of troops, and a redesigned survey for other troops. The Rand study estimated about 20,000 victims of sexual assault, while the estimate based on the previous methodology was 19,000.

Rand experts said the survey was designed to address criticism of the DOD's earlier surveys. Among other things, researchers said, it utilized a larger sample size, simplified wording of key questions and made a distinction in its measures between instances the military classifies as crimes and those classified as workplace equal opportunity violations.

The spiking number of sexual assaults grabbed the attention of several lawmakers, who in the past two years have been debating how best to deal with the crimes and to prevent more in the future.

Several reforms championed by Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., took effect a year ago, and after seeing initial accounts of the report, she issued a statement saying the combination of increased reporting and decreased assaults was "exactly the combination we're looking for."

"I'm sure there's more work to do, and I'm anxious to hear how victims feel about the services and support offered to them when they report an assault," McCaskill said.

But Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., who this week renewed a push to remove the authority to prosecute sexual assault and other serious crimes from the victim's chain of command, said some of the numbers should be a "screaming red flag."

"For a year now, we have heard how the reforms in the previous defense bill were going to protect victims and make retaliation a crime," she said. Instead, 62 percent of people who said they reported sexual assaults also said

they were retaliated against for speaking up, Gillibrand said — the same number as last year.

Gillibrand said the numbers illustrate why the number of victims who report crimes remains low, and called the prevalence of sexual assault and unwanted sexual contact in the military "appalling."

There is no other mission in the world for our military where this much failure would be allowed," she said. "Enough is enough. Last December, the president said he would give the military and previous reforms a year to work and it is clear they have failed in their mission."

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel did order several new training and assault-prevention measures in a memo that accompanied the report.

A new, installation-centered study will "customize" sexual assault-prevention measures at a number of bases to determine which policies and procedures are most effective, Hagel said.

"This effort will identify installation and community risk factors for sexual assault and develop associated actions leadership can take to mitigate sexual violence," he wrote in the memo. A plan for the study is due on Jan. 30.

Hagel also ordered "first-line" supervisors throughout the DOD to undergo training in the responsibility of bosses in sexual assault prevention and response programs. The new training applies to all junior officers, junior enlisted supervisors and civilian employees that supervise military members.

Hagel also ordered new procedures for installation commanders to prevent reprisals and retaliation for reports of sexual assault, and ordered service branch secretaries to publicize the report findings "in an interactive manner."

The Navy said the report showed the DOD is having some success in fighting sexual assault but that more effort is needed.

"While our report to the president demonstrates progress, as we all know, our work is not complete," he wrote in the memo. "We must remain persistent and relentless in our efforts to eradicate sexual assault from the military."

For the complete report, a fact sheet and the defense secretary's recommendations, go to stripes.com. Stars and Stripes' Chris Carroll contributed to this report. hagel.jennifer@stripes.com

Navy revokes honorary title given to Cosby

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy is revoking Bill Cosby's title of honorary chief petty officer, saying allegations of sexual abuse made during the comedian are serious and conflict with the Navy's core values.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus and Master Chief Petty Officer Michael Stevens made the

announcement Thursday in a statement.

Cosby enlisted in the Navy in 1956 and served four years as a hospital corpsman before being honorably discharged in 1960 as a petty officer third class. The honorary title was presented to Cosby in 2011.

Cosby, 77, has refused to answer questions about mounting accusations that he sexually abused several women.

From The Associated Press



JAMES KIMBER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine USS Wyoming surfaces in the Atlantic Ocean in June 2012.

Allegation: Female officers recorded in shower on sub

By DAN LAMOTHE

The Washington Post

The Navy is investigating reports that some of the first women ever assigned to a Navy submarine were secretly recorded on video while showering, a Navy official said.

The incidents allegedly occurred on the USS Wyoming, an Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine that is based in Kings Bay, Ga. The Navy first learned of the allegations last month and launched an investigation along with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the official said.

Navy Lt. Leslie Hubbell, a service spokeswoman, declined to specify what happened, citing the ongoing investigation. The Navy was notified of possible criminal behavior aboard the Wyoming,

she said. Another Navy official confirmed it involves allegations that women were recorded on the Wyoming in various states of undress.

"If the allegations prove to be factual, the Navy will ensure individuals involved are held accountable for their actions," Hubbell said.

The investigation, first reported by the independent Navy Times, centers on a 24-year-old enlisted sailor on the submarine. The videos are believed to show at least three female officers while showering or undressing, and had been recorded over more than a year, Navy Times reported, citing a source who had spoken to one of the reputed victims.

The allegation is a troubling development in the integration of

women into new jobs in the military. Female officers were first assigned to submarines in late 2011, with the Wyoming among the first involved. In addition to the Wyoming, women now serve on at least six other submarines. Enlisted female sailors are still not allowed to do so, but the service is aiming to integrate them by 2020.

Women are expected to be integrated on fast-attack submarines for the first time in January, when female officers are assigned to the USS Virginia and USS Minnesota. Since the Navy lifted a prohibition on women serving on submarines in April 2010, at least 43 women have done so, service officials said in October.

Obama to announce DOD chief pick Friday

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama plans to announce his pick to lead the Pentagon on Friday.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest would not say who

Obama has selected. Administration officials have said former Pentagon official Ashton Carter is expected to replace Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

Hagel resigned last month under pressure from the president. He is staying on until his successor is confirmed.

From The Associated Press

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MILITARY

Hawaii-based unit to head to S. Korea on 9-month mission

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea—A Hawaii-based brigade is heading to South Korea on a nine-month rotational deployment, part of the Army's increasing use of deploying intact units to the peninsula rather than individual troops on one- or two-year tours.

The 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade has been training for the upcoming deployment with a brigadewide field exercise at multiple locations on Oahu and Hawaii's Big Island.

Officials have not said when the 2-6 Cavalry will arrive, where its troops will be stationed or how many soldiers will be part of the deployment, though 8th Army spokesman Col. Shawn Stroud said the unit will be attached to the 2nd Infantry Division as part of the standard rotational deployment.

"This is just part of the Army's rotational concept," he said Thursday.

Other units that have come to South Korea on rotational deployments include the 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., to Camp Humphreys and the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, both from Fort Hood, Texas, to Camps Stanley and Hovey.

The Pentagon announced last month that the 21D's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team will be deactivated in June 2015

and will be replaced by Fort Hood's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, which is coming to the peninsula on a rotational deployment.

Supporters say the use of rotational forces means more stability and less turnover within units during their deployments.

U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti last week said the "prudent deployment of additive and rotational forces to Korea" in the past year has "enhanced the alliance's readiness posture and reinforced the U.S. commitment to the Republic of Korea."

According to the 25th ID, the brigade's preparation for the deployment has included water gunnery training, engaging mechanized enemy forces, conducting convoy operations and relocating 95 pieces of equipment from one side of Oahu to the other. Soldiers participated in live-fire exercises and set up mobile gas stations on the Big Island.

"We had the ability to train at several different locations in Hawaii over environment and land, in a similar operations environment that we encounter in Korea," Maj. Mark Fulmer, operations officer in charge, was quoted as saying in a news release. "Our ability to react here allows us to go out and do the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief throughout the Pacific in support of U.S. Army Pacific," he said. "In Korea, we will be able to do the same operations tactically."

rowland.ashley@stripes.com

Envoy: US troops to have immunity in Iraq

By VIVIAN SALAMA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Washington has an agreement with Baghdad on privileges and immunities for the growing number of troops based in Iraq who are helping in the fight against the Islamic State group, the new U.S. ambassador said Thursday.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Stuart Jones said Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has given assurances that U.S. troops will receive immunity from prosecution. Under Iraq's former prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, that issue was a major sticking point, ultimately leading to the decision to withdraw all remaining U.S. troops in late 2011.

"That was a different situation and those troops would have had a different role," Jones said.

"We have the assurances that we need from the government of Iraq on privileges and immunities," he said. "It's in the basis of our formal written communications between our governments and also based on the strategic framework agreement that is the legal basis of our partnership."

The House was expected to vote Thursday on a proposed \$5 billion expansion of U.S. military operations against the Islamic State group in Iraq, part of a broader

\$585 billion defense policy bill for Iraq and Syria. Last month, Obama authorized the deployment of up to 1,500 more American troops to bolster Iraqi forces, which could more than double the total number of U.S. forces to 3,100. That's in addition to the 5,000 people working for the U.S. mission in Iraq.

Meanwhile, a series of car bomb attacks at a group of restaurants and a market on Thursday killed 21 people in Baghdad, Iraqi officials said.

The U.S.-trained and -equipped Iraqi military has struggled to recover from its collapse in June, when the Islamic State captured the country's second-largest city, Mosul, and swept over much of northern and western Iraq. Iraqi commanders fled, pleas for more ammunition went unanswered, and in some cases soldiers stripped off their uniforms and ran. The U.S. began launching airstrikes in Iraq on Aug. 8, and now heads a coalition backing Iraqi and Kurdish ground forces from the air.

U.S. advise-and-assist teams, which were based in Baghdad and the Kurdish regional capital Irbil, are now fanning out to other locations in the country, including the highly volatile Anbar province in western Iraq, where U.S. troops fought some of the heaviest battles of the eight-year conflict.

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MILITARY

House approves DOD budget that trims benefits, raises

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday passed a defense budget that cuts troop benefits and clears the way for the Obama administration to continue its war strategy against the Islamic State, despite bipartisan outcry over a lack of debate.

The last-minute budget compromise reduces military pay raises, housing allowances, prescription medicine coverage, and commissary funding next year, while providing \$63.7 billion for overseas wars and permission for continued arming and training of Syrian rebel groups.

The Senate is expected to vote next week on the massive 2015 budget bill, which was cobbled together during weeks of closed-door negotiations after the Senate failed to pass its version of a defense budget.

The military "is going to have to live with a dramatically smaller amount of money than they thought they would have," said Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee.

He said the cuts do not go far enough and more are likely in the coming years.

The military is faced with a shrinking budget as sequestration forces caps on spending. Top brass came to Capitol Hill earlier this year lobbying for a wide range of cuts to personnel and equipment, warning that their ability to fight wars depends on reining in the ballooning expenses.

"We rejected pretty much all

of them," Smith said. "In 2016 and 2017, we are going to have to make some choices."

Those that were approved in the budget bill faced little opposition Thursday.

"I remain concerned that these provisions send the wrong signal to our warriors and those who have sacrificed so much to protect our country," said Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va., one of the few lawmakers who did mention the benefits on the House floor Thursday.

The bill, which passed 300-119, approves a 1 percent White House cap on troop pay raises, down from 1.8 percent increases. It opens for a variety of other cuts next year while leaving the door open for multi-year reductions requested by the Pentagon:

■ Basic housing allowances will go from covering 100 percent to 99 percent of costs, while the military hopes to eventually bring that down to 95 percent.

■ Tricare pharmacy copays will cost troops \$3 more, which could still be on track to meet the Pentagon goal of requiring \$30 more out of pocket for prescription medicine within a decade.

■ The \$1.3 billion budget for base commissaries around the world will be reduced by \$100 million. Brass wants a total of \$900 million in reductions.

To get the bill approved Thursday, the House barred any amendments and limited debate.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle were rankled by the quick action and especially the lack of debate over the new war in Iraq and Syria, which the Obama ad-

ministration has waged since August under a congressional authorization from 2002. The White House and lawmakers have called for an updated war authorization in recent weeks, though there has been little movement on legislation.

"We are talking about a defense bill but we are not allowed to have a debate or vote on any of these wars we are involved in," Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., said.

Along with increased funding for Iraq operations, it allows the administration to continue with a strategy of training and arming moderate rebel groups fighting the Syrian civil war in hopes they can be a proxy ground force against the Islamic State.

Congress was skeptical of the plan this fall, saying it did not have enough information from the White House, but passed a temporary measure to allow it to continue until Dec. 11 before leaving for midterm elections.

Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, said lawmakers were voting again to approve the training and arming of rebels for up to two years without a clear understanding of the program. He blamed the Democratic-controlled Senate for not passing a defense budget and putting pressure on both chambers to hastily pass a bill in the last days of the legislative session.

What's in the bill?

Here are some key points in the annual defense budget being considered by Congress:

PAY RAISES — Troops will see a pay increase of 1 percent as proposed by the White House instead of the 1.8 percent indexed to private-sector growth, which some in Congress had hoped to preserve.

HOUSING — Increases in basic allowance housing will be slowed; troops will begin paying 1 percent of the cost out of pocket beginning next year. The military hopes to reduce the payments in coming years so servicemembers pay 5 percent of their housing costs.



◀ **A-10** — Lawmakers bent to supporters of the A-10 Thunderbolt by blocking an Air Force proposal to retire it. But the bill still allows the Pentagon to reduce maintenance costs by flying the aircraft less.

TRICARE — Beneficiaries will pay \$3 more out of pocket for prescription medications next year. A major overhaul of the military insurer was not approved.

TOBACCO — The military is prohibited from banning tobacco sales on its bases. The provision was sponsored over the summer by Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., a Marine veteran, as the Pentagon called for review of the sales.

COMMISSARY — Base supermarkets around the world get a \$100-million cut to their current \$1.4 billion budget. The military proposed reducing by twice that much next year and reducing the supermarkets' budget to \$400 million over three years.



SYRIA — The Obama administration will be allowed to continue with its plan to train and equip moderate Syrian rebels to fight the Islamic State group. Lawmakers were skeptical of the strategy but say they are now satisfied with the details of the operations.

PURPLE HEART — Victims of the 2009 Fort Hood shootings will be eligible to receive Purple Hearts and combat injury benefits. Pentagon officials for years have said the shooting victims are not eligible for the Purple Heart and certain combat-injury compensation.

SOURCE: The Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015

Stars and Stripes

"The problem is we are debating this without any real discussion," Sessions said, "because our

friends on the other side of this building are not willing to engage us on the issue."

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MILITARY

Congress docks pensions of senior brass

By TOM VANDEN BROOK
USA Today

WASHINGTON — Pensions for generals and admirals will be trimmed to ensure that they make no more in retirement than they earned while in uniform under an agreement on Pentagon spending for 2015 reached by Senate and House negotiators.

The agreement on the National Defense Authorization Act reverses a decision made in 2007 to modify pensions for three- and four-star generals and admirals in an effort to retain them as the wars raged in Iraq and Afghanistan. It boosted the pensions of some senior officers by 63 percent. USA Today first reported on the modification in 2012 when the Pentagon's highest pension pay-

ment, of \$272,892 per year, went to a retired four-star officer with 43 years of experience.

A January 2014 report by USA Today showed the Pentagon had no plans to reduce senior officers' pensions although a December 2013 budget agreement called for lower pension rates for other military retirees.

There was no indication that beefing up pensions had increased retention of top officers, nor any sign that the Pentagon had been losing brass over retirement pay, the Senate Armed Services Committee determined. Pensions were reduced to ensure that top brass share the burden of Pentagon cost-cutting.

"Three- and four-star generals and admirals should not earn

'It's only fair that the NDAA makes senior flag officers forgo a special bonus.'

Ethan Rosenkranz

National security policy analyst at the Project on Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government watchdog group

more in retirement than they did on active duty," said Ethan Rosenkranz, national security policy analyst at the Project on Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government watchdog group. "The House and Senate made the right move to revoke this special pension bonus for senior flag officers."

The change, also agreed to by the House Armed Services Committee, is part of an effort to rein

in military personnel costs. In all, the committees agreed to authorize \$134.7 billion for military personnel, including costs of pay, allowances, bonuses and death benefits. Troops at the rank of colonel and Navy captain and below will receive a 1 percent pay raise, while salaries for generals and admirals will be frozen. It also reduces housing allowances for troops and increases copayments for some drugs.

"Our military families are being asked to share the pain of deficit reduction through a constrained pay increase, a reduction in housing benefits, and an increase in pharmaceutical copays," Rosenkranz said. "It's only fair that the NDAA makes senior flag officers forgo a special bonus."

New pensions for three- and four-star officers will be capped at top active-duty pay of \$181,501 at the end of the month, although pensions for currently serving officers will be grandfathered. Housing and other allowances can increase the compensation paid to officers by about one-third.

The change is estimated to save about \$23 billion over nine years.

Guam officials laud push to fund Marines' move to Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Officials in Guam applauded an agreement made Tuesday by the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to partially unfreeze funding for military construction related to the move of 5,000 Okinawa-based Marines and their families to the western Pacific territory.

The bill would set a cap on the move at approximately \$8.7 billion and would restrict the development of public infrastructure on Guam pending further study, according to a copy of the bill. Japan's Yomiuri Shimbun reported that Japan will pay \$3.1 billion of that amount.

The plan has been in limbo for more than three years since it was left unfunded by lawmakers concerned about costs and logistics. Despite Tuesday's deal between the chamber committees, it must survive floor votes in the House and the Senate and must be signed into law by President Barack Obama.

"We see this as a very positive step in the right direction," said Mark Calvo, director of the Government of Guam Military Buildup Office.

A spokeswoman for U.S. Forces Japan referred inquiries to the Pacific Command, which was unavailable for comment. Okinawa Gov.-elect Takeshi Onaga could not be reached and Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine declined to comment. Onaga is scheduled to assume office Wednesday.

Calvo, who is a veteran and distant cousin of Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, said only one major hurdle remains before construction can really begin: An economic adjustment committee must report to Congress on the impacts

the move will have on Guam's services, what Guam requires to sustain the move, and budget lines to fund and to mitigate the impacts of the move. He believed the report would be completed by March or April.

"We're working very diligently with members of the EAC to produce this report accurately and provide it to Congress," he said. "The people [of Guam] are happy."

'We see this as a very positive step in the right direction.'

Mark Calvo
director of the
Government of
Guam Military
Buildup Office

The progress of relocating Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Camp Schwab in the northern portion of Okinawa is not tied to the move of Marines to Guam, Calvo said. That issue has been a source of contention recently on Okinawa after construction began in August to install a new runway in the bay as part of the move. The anti-base Onaga was elected last month by 100,000 votes on a platform of stopping the move. Marine Corps officials have said they remain committed to the plan.

The Yomiuri Shimbun reported that Japan already has contributed more than \$965 million for the Marines' move to Guam.

Stars and Stripes reporter Chiyomi Sumida contributed to this report. burke.matt@stripes.com

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PACIFIC

Historian searches for WWII evidence

Remains of Japanese plane, crew might lie on Hawaii golf course

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — A local historian is convinced he's located the site where a two-man Japanese dive-bomber crew crashed on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, and was buried nearby: the tony grounds of Hoakalei Country Club Golf Course in Ewa Beach. "The responsible thing to do is at least make an attempt to find these guys," said John Bond, a semi-retired Ewa resident who has labored for years to bring recognition to the largely forgotten Marine Corps Air Station Ewa and its role in the 1941 battle. "If they can't find them, then put up a marker saying this is a crash site and remember that so-and-so was killed here. I don't understand why that would be a problem."

But the golf course's owner, Haseko Development, has been less than receptive to the idea of an active search for the grave on the property, which the company announced in October was being sold to a Japanese firm. Haseko Vice President Sharené Saito Tam said the company has done all it was required to do in identifying culturally and archaeologically significant artifacts on the property during development and has found no evidence of such a grave. Further, she said, Bond does not have documentation that pinpoints the gravesite's exact location.

As to placing a marker on the grounds, she said: "If there was evidence that showed that to be the case, of course it would be considered, but at this point there is nothing like that. But to ask any landowner to put a marker that indicates a grave where you don't know a grave exists does not seem appropriate or respectful of the people



Left: An aerial photo shows Ewa Beach, Hawaii, in May 1942, with the circle indicating the Dec. 7, 1941, crash sites of two planes, one American and one Japanese. Right: A Google satellite image shows the same area, now Hoakalei Country Club Golf Course.



Courtesy of the U.S. National Archives; Google satellite image



Courtesy of the U.S. National Archives

Army photographer Lee Embree snapped this photo of the crash site of a Japanese dive bomber while he was aboard a B17 on the morning of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Hawaii.

they are trying to name there."

Of the roughly 60 Japanese troops who were killed or lost during the Dec. 7 attack, many were buried in various cemeteries on Oahu but were repatriated after the war. About 30 Japanese remain missing from that day.

One notable memorial to a Japanese airman stands in Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay on Oahu. A bronze plaque marks the spot where Lt. Fusata Iita, commander of the 3rd Aircraft Group of the Japanese Imperial Navy, crashed his plane on a hillside near Kansas Tower that morning. Iita's body was long ago returned to Japan.

The defense attache with the Japan consulate in Honolulu said the case of the two Ewa airmen is "a difficult situation" for Japan because the site is private property and the owner says there's no evidence to back up Bond's assertion.

During the past few years, Bond and a group of historians specializing in the 1941 attack have gathered extensive documentation and photos about the crash site, which had been lost to time and land development.

Even Tom Dye, the archaeologist contracted by Haseko to monitor its land development, admitted that Bond and his colleagues have "done an incredible amount of work" in tracking down photos and accounts of the crash.

"They've found much more than I think anybody could have expected about this crash event," Dye said. "But there's just nothing yet that gets us a location that we could narrow things down and really make a concerted effort to look for a burial."

Comparing old photographs and military reports from the time of the attack, Bond said he has calculated the crash site lies

within a 50-yard radius of the golf course's club house.

A Dec. 9, 1941, report by Capt. Lester Milz, with the 251st Coastal Artillery, noted that the badly burned bodies of two Japanese crewmen had been found and his men disposed of the remains. Two days a later, an Army staff officer visited Milz's battery and wrote in his diary that he'd been told the airmen's bodies had been buried in a "coral grave."

"I knew they buried them in a sinkhole because that's what we have out here," Bond said of Ewa Plain, which is an ancient limestone field. "You don't dig easily in this ground. It's like concrete."

Bond contends that burying bodies beside crash sites was common in that era.

"If you had a crash and couldn't extract the people out, you just buried them by the plane," he said.

Dye said that even if the exact crash site is pinpointed, there's no direct evidence indicating where the bodies were buried.

"You really just have to guess at that point," Dye said. "Mr. Bond perhaps is comfortable with guessing, but you're not supposed to guess. We really don't have any credible evidence to lead us to a place where we could productively search for remains of the two airmen."

Bond suggested that ground-penetrating sonar could be used to detect the grave.

"GPR has highly evolved in the last few years," he said. "They've used it on archaeological sites to find tombs. It will detect these sinkholes. It's also used in old cemeteries."

Dye, however, said that limestone subsurface is "a nightmare scenario for ground-penetrating sonar."

"The problem you have with ground-penetrating radar is there are just a huge number of false

positives," Dye said. "You'd have to dig every single one of them up to find out what they were. It's not specific enough to tell you, oh, that's bone versus that's a rock or that's a root."

Bond has written a request to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, which is tasked with locating and retrieving the remains of U.S. servicemembers lost overseas, requesting that it take an active role in searching for the grave.

"Getting involved in another nation's recovery event is not something we'd typically do unless it was in the course of one of our own investigations," JPAC spokesman Lee Tucker said. The agency has in the past provided research assistance to the Japan Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, Social Welfare and War Victims Bureau, which oversees such recoveries.

Tucker said the Japanese government did not require JPAC's assistance or approval in searching for remains in Hawaii.

But Takeshi Ogino, the defense attache at the Japan consulate in Honolulu, said Japan did not have a comparable agency such as JPAC to research and retrieve MIA remains in foreign countries. He said the consulate had not received an "official request" from either Bond or the Haseko group in regard to searching for the airmen's grave or commemorating the crash site.

Haseko's Tam said that if Bond produces "additional information and evidence that we can authenticate," the company might consider further search.

But Bond contends that the time to actively search and recover the remains is now, as the 73rd anniversary of the attack nears.

"If a decent search was done, they could be found," he said.

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Budget path could lead to benefits punch in '16

By TOM PHILPOTT

Military folks will see compensation packages pinched in 2015 under a deal struck this week by House and Senate negotiators finalizing pay and benefit changes in the fiscal 2015 defense authorization bill.

But the compensation pinch in 2015 could become a more hurtful punch starting in 2016, the armed services committees warn, if the new Congress fails to roll back defense spending cuts of \$50 billion a year still mandated by the Budget Control Act and its "sequestration" cutting tool.

As expected, the Jan. 1 military pay raise will be capped for a second straight year at 1 percent, versus 1.8 percent, to keep pace with private sector wage growth. But House negotiators have persuaded senators to soften provisions for dampening stateside housing allowances and for raising beneficiary co-pays on drug prescriptions that are not filled at retail outlets.

More dramatic, multiyear increases in drug co-pays embraced in May by the Senate committee have been replaced by a standalone \$3 increase for non-active duty beneficiaries filling prescriptions at retail outlets or through the TRICARE mail order program.

The co-pay increases take effect as soon as the bill is signed but TRICARE likely won't be ready to implement before Feb. 1. At retail outlets, military fam-

ily members and retirees would pay \$8 instead of \$5 for generic drugs and \$20 versus \$17 for brand name drugs on the military formulary. Non-active duty beneficiaries using home delivery would pay \$16 instead of \$13 for a three-month supply of brand name drugs on the formulary, and \$46 rather than \$43 for non-formulary brand names.

Since March, TRICARE has required older beneficiaries, for at least one year, to get nongeneric maintenance drugs filled by mail or on base. The new defense bill would make the pilot program permanent, not just for the elderly but for all non-active duty beneficiaries needing medicine for chronic conditions. Also, brand name drugs not on the formulary would be available only by mail order, effective Oct. 1, 2015.

The House-Senate deal also softens a plan to cap Basic Allowance for Housing increases over three years until servicemembers living off base pay 5 percent of average rental costs out of pocket. The compromise would pare BAH rate increases in 2015 by 1 percent. BAH rate protection will shield current recipients from the change until they move to their next stateside assignment.

In a "joint explanatory statement" on the compromises reached, the House-Senate conferees warn that heftier compensation savings sought by the

MILITARY UPDATE

Joint Chiefs will be revisited after the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commissions delivers its recommendations in February, particularly if planned defense budget cuts are not eased.

"If sequestration-level budgets remain in effect for fiscal 2016 and beyond, [the Defense Department] will need to make painful cuts and achieve substantial savings across its entire budget [to] avoid an unacceptable reduction in readiness," the statement says. "The Chiefs have urged us to take all action necessary, including compensation adjustments, to avoid such readiness impacts."

The conferees also clarify that their deal on BAH and drug co-pays for 2015 "preserves the option for Congress to achieve most of the savings" sought by the chiefs in pharmacy co-pays through 2024 and also "full savings" they sought in housing allowances if needed to protect readiness.

The Congressional Budget Office told conferees the Joint Chiefs' more aggressive plan on drug co-pays, which the Senate committee had approved, would have cut personnel costs by \$13.2 billion over a decade. Those 10-

year savings are \$2.3 billion under the compromise, leaving almost \$11 billion in added savings their committees will eye again next year.

CBO also estimated that the deal lowered savings in BAH over 10 years from \$9.8 billion to \$2.1 billion. Again, that will be \$7.7 billion in potential savings that will be needed if the new Congress fails to ease sequestration.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the armed services committee chairman retiring next month, issued a statement with ranking Republican James M. Inhofe, of Oklahoma, that if sequestration survives deeper compensation curbs will be needed "to avoid drastic reductions in military readiness."

Rep. Harold "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., the House committee chairman who also is retiring, won praise from military associations for blunting the compensation curbs senators had endorsed. But the committee's top member, Rep. Adam Smith, of Washington state, suggested a false victory. It was Congress that forced sequestration on the military, he said, yet it refuses "to help the department deal with the consequences of that idiotic policy."

Days before the defense bill deal was struck, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, told a Washington defense forum that readiness is falling to the lowest point he has seen in 40 years of service. He blamed it on defense budgets being squeezed

between mindless sequestration and lawmakers' refusal to curb manpower costs.

Last February the chief had unveiled a plan to save \$11 billion in compensation over the next five years through a series of military pay caps, by ending TRICARE Prime, the military's managed care benefit, by sharply raising various TRICARE fees and by slashing commissary funding over three years by more than two-thirds, which would devalue shopper discount.

"But we're not getting any of them," Dempsey complained.

The defense bill, which the House and Senate hope to pass by mid-December, allowing no floor debate or amendments, contains scores of other personnel provisions. Two are relevant to the Joint Chiefs' pursuit of compensation reforms.

One will block a Jan. 1 pay raise for flag and general officers. The second accepts half of the \$200 million first-year cut to commissary funding sought by the chiefs. It was the House committee that backed the \$100 million hit to the Defense Commissary Agency after DeCa signaled it could absorb the cut without affecting shopper savings or services. But a resale industry official said cuts to commissary staff or store hours are still likely.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY MEREDITH TIBBETTS/Stars and Stripes

First lady Michelle Obama talks with children during an event that honored military families at the White House on Wednesday.

First lady welcomes military children

By MEREDITH TIBBETTS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Military families were welcomed into the White House on Wednesday to be among the first to view the holiday decorations and help the first lady decorate cookies.

Children gathered in the State Dining Room with Michelle Obama to glaze gingerbread men and meet the White House dogs, Sunny and Bo. Some of the kids seemed just as excited about meeting the dogs as decorating cookies.

The first lady gave a few remarks to kick off the event in the East Room, which was decorated with five Christmas trees, garland and more.

"The holidays are a chance for us to show what our country is grateful for this holiday season, and that's really all of you, the military families who serve our country proudly and give us all so much," she said.

In the Blue Room, the official White House tree stands 18 feet



Above: A girl decorates a cookie during the event that honored military families. Below: A gold star with the name of 1st Lt. Robert Kelly — a Marine who was killed in action on Nov. 9, 2010 — hangs on the Gold Star Tree in the White House.



tall and nearly 12 feet wide. It is decorated in honor of the men and women in uniform. Decorations on the tree are patriotic and covered in ribbons. Children contributed cards that thanks military families.

Also among the 26 trees in the White House is the Gold Star tree. It is decorated with gold stars that have the names of someone killed in action. Only people who have had a loved one killed can add a star to the tree. Blank gold stars are on a table near the tree for visitors to fill out.

"No matter what you all have been going through, this is the thing that really keeps me going: You guys always, always step up," Obama told the military families. "So many of you are the ones who are doing all the un-entertaining, more so than average Americans."

tibbets.meredith@stripes.com
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Plans for Naples evacuation revised

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Italian officials are outlining the boundaries of a new evacuation zone in an area of Naples popular with U.S. Navy personnel, the result of growing concern in recent years over the threat of a massive sunken volcano.

Proposed last month by civil protection officials in the Campania region, which includes Naples, the new zone would extend from the western edge of Naples across the region known as Campi Flegrei, which overlies a 60-square-mile sunken volcano known as a caldera. It would update boundaries from 2001 and more closely resemble a zone established in 1995 around nearby Mount Vesuvius that required communities to coordinate with regional and national officials on evacuation plans.

The Navy base command in Naples banned new leases in the Vesuvius red zone in 2012, although it allowed those living there at the time to remain. Base officials said they are following discussions about the Campi Flegrei red zone, where more than 500 Navy families lease housing, but will wait until the policy is finalized before deciding whether the base needs to respond.

"We're not speculating at this point, but we're monitoring," said Sean Quinn, base emergency management officer. "We're looking forward to seeing what the result is."

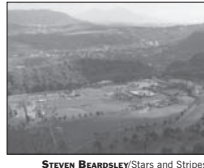
Formed 60,000 years ago, when a volcano collapsed into an empty magma chamber after eruption, the caldera is now a wide basin straddling the coast of the Gulf of Pozzuoli. Its landscape is marked by several active volcanic vents and an arc of large, extinct craters. The Navy's recreation facility, Carney Park, is inside one of the craters, Monte Gauro.

Volcanologists in Naples have elevated their warnings about the caldera in recent years, saying eruption through several vents could send ash and hot rock miles outside the eruption site. Extension of the original red zone was prompted partly by archaeological evidence showing that past eruptions have dumped material well outside the current zone.

More than 500,000 people live in the Campi Flegrei area. More than 3 million people live in the Naples area.

Community leaders, volcanologists and civil-protection officials met on Oct. 20 to discuss the new boundaries. Communities were asked to submit their comments or concerns by Nov. 30, and many are now drawing up evacuation plans required under the new initiative.

The new boundaries extend the evacuation zone to the north, into the towns of Quarto, Marano and Giugliano, and east into several



STEVEN BEARDSLEY/Stars and Stripes

Carney Park, the Navy's recreation facility near Naples, Italy, is inside an extinct volcanic crater in the city of Pozzuoli.

Naples neighborhoods, including Vomero, Chiaia, Posillipo and Arenella. The zone already covered the towns of Pozzuoli, Bacoli and Monte di Procida.

Cities throughout the zone will be required to submit detailed evacuation plans in the coming year, including evacuation departure points for public transportation.

About \$18.5 million in funding from the European Union will be distributed among the towns of the red zone to help meet their plans.

Alfonso Trincone, an official with the Campi Flegrei city of Pozzuoli, said the new zone follows a growing recognition of the caldera's potential threat. But he said there were no immediate concerns about the area's safety.

"There is no emergency; there is no danger," he said. "There is nothing at the moment that Americans should be concerned about."

Scientists in the area monitor three volcanoes — the caldera, Vesuvius and Mount Epomeo, on the island of Ischia — for signs of activity.

Vesuvius is the best-known of the three, with several well-documented eruptions in its history, among them the one that buried Pompeii in A.D. 79. Its last eruption, in 1944, was witnessed by Allied troops who had recently entered Naples.

The Navy abandoned its original base in the Campi Flegrei town of Agnano in 2005, partly because of damage caused by the tremors. It now maintains bases at the Capodichino airport, north of Naples and in Griscignano d'Aversa, much farther north.

Questions about the adequacy of evacuation plans in the area have plagued regional officials for years. They were forced to expand the Vesuvius red zone earlier this year after scientists challenged the assumptions behind prior boundaries, pointing to evidence that an eruption could affect a wider area than thought.

The Navy base has its own evacuation plans, according to Quinn, the emergency management official. He did not say whether they were updated to include a Campi Flegrei eruption.

beardsley.steven@stripes.com
Twitter: @sbeardsley

NATION

Inmate says drugs, sex, money fuel corruption in jail

By JULIE LINDERMAN
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The leader of a violent gang that controlled life inside one of America's most notorious jails testified that he directed guards motivated by sex and money to smuggle in drugs and cellphones and to facilitate attacks on inmates who challenged his authority.

Tavon "Bulldog" White described a culture of corruption inside the centuries-old Baltimore City Detention Center, led by a gang that has its own language, laws and authorities. The Black Guerrilla Family's hierarchy includes a "minister of education" who quizzes members on gang literature and a "minister of finance" who manages the profits sent by cellphones from behind bars.

The gang's smuggling schemes even fund the bail that frees gang members who can't pay to get sprung from jail, he testified this week.

Gang leaders, not guards, are the ultimate authority inside the jail, he said.

"We're about to go into a strange place, an upside-down world where inmates ran the

prison and correctional officers took directions from the gang leader," prosecutor Robert Harding told jurors in opening statements, and White didn't disappoint, describing a gang-run economy made possible by official corruption.

White was once the government's primary target, but has since become the prosecutors' most valuable asset, providing information that led to a 160-count indictment against 44 people. Now he's testifying against the few who didn't plead guilty: five corrections officers, one kitchen worker and two inmates on trial in federal court in Baltimore.

White, who impregnated four of the guards while in the jail on an attempted murder charge, said he never forced a guard to participate.

"I didn't have to," White said. "I had my children's mothers, and plenty of other guards willing to do it for money."

The vast majority of the Baltimore jail's guards are women.

One guard who had a child with White had "Tavon" tattooed on her wrist. Another who had two of his children tattooed "Tavon" on her neck.

Michael Brown's stepfather apologizes for comments

The Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — The stepfather of Michael Brown has apologized for angry comments he made after the grand jury decided not to indict the police officer who killed his stepson, but said his remarks had nothing to do with the arson and looting that ravaged Ferguson and the surrounding area.

Louis Head said Wednesday in a statement that he was full of emotion on the night of Nov. 24, when he yelled "Burn this bitch down!" in a crowd of protesters.

St. Louis County police said Tuesday they are investigating Head's comments as part of a

broader inquiry into the arson, vandalism and looting. Twelve commercial buildings were destroyed in the hours after the grand jury decision.

Head does not have a listed phone number, and there was no answer when an Associated Press reporter knocked at his listed address Wednesday.

Brown, 18, was shot and killed by Ferguson officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9.

Wilson, who is white, told the grand jury he fired because his life was in danger, but some witnesses said Brown, who was black and unarmed, was trying to surrender.

Adrian Horta said he was able to drive his SUV alongside one car and pull a man and woman out through the driver's side window.

A swift water rescue crew rescued the remaining people.

No injuries were reported. Roads around the flooded area are closed.

A weakening Pacific storm has brought days of rain to drought-stricken California, triggering some freeway flooding and likely opening sinkholes but not producing major damage.

From The Associated Press



JASON DECROW/AP

Protesters rallying against a grand jury's decision not to indict the police officer involved in the death of Eric Garner march early Thursday across the eastbound traffic lanes of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York.

Protests erupt in wake of chokehold death decision

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Protests erupted in New York and other U.S. cities after a white police officer was cleared in the chokehold death of an unarmed black man — a case that drew comparisons to the deadly police shooting in Ferguson, Mo.

Eric Garner died as officers were attempting to arrest him for selling untaxed cigarettes on the street. The controversy once again has cast a spotlight on police tensions with blacks, even as the nation's president and top law enforcement official are both black.

Unlike the Missouri case, where the circumstances surrounding Michael Brown's death remain in dispute, Garner's July 17 arrest was captured on videotape. The Garner case could have even wider repercussions, particularly because it happened in the nation's most prominent city and one with a liberal tradition.

New York City police said Thursday that 83 people were arrested, most for disorderly conduct.

The decision Wednesday by the Staten Island grand jury not to indict Officer Daniel Pantaleo

heightened tensions that have simmered in the city since Garner's death.

In the neighborhood where Garner died, people reacted with angry disbelief and chanted, "I can't breathe!" and "Hands up — don't choke!"

In Manhattan, demonstrators laid down in Grand Central Terminal, walked through traffic on the West Side Highway and blocked the Brooklyn Bridge.

A City Council member cried. Hundreds converged on the heavily secured area around the annual Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting with a combination of professional-looking signs and hand-scratched placards reading, "Black lives matter" and "Fellow white people, wake up."

"This fight ain't over, it just begun," said Garner's widow, Esau.

The demonstrations were largely peaceful, in contrast to the widespread arson and looting that accompanied the decision nine days earlier not to indict the white officer who shot and killed Brown, an unarmed, black 18-year-old.

Attorney General Eric Holder said federal prosecutors would

conduct their own investigation of Garner's death. The New York Police Department also is conducting an internal probe that could lead to administrative charges against Pantaleo, who remains on desk duty.

Meanwhile, President Barack Obama said Wednesday evening that the grand jury decision underscores the need to strengthen the trust and accountability between communities and law enforcement.

In his first public comments on the death, Pantaleo said he prays for Garner's family and hopes they accept his condolences.

Police union officials and Pantaleo's lawyer argued that the officer used a takedown move taught by the police department, not a banned maneuver, because Garner was resisting arrest. They said his poor health was the main reason he died.

Staten Island District Attorney Daniel Donovan said the grand jury found "no reasonable cause" to bring charges. The grand jury could have considered a range of charges, from murder to a lesser offense such as reckless endangerment.

14 people rescued from flash flood in California

LOS ANGELES — Authorities said 14 people were rescued after their car became stranded in a flash flood in a Southern California community during the third straight day of rain.

KABC-TV reports five vehicles got stuck shortly after 1 a.m. Thursday as several feet of mud and water roared over a rural road near Gilman Hot Springs in Riverside County.

California Highway Patrol Sgt.

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WORLD

A black and white photograph of a wooden signpost in a field. The signpost is made of vertical wooden planks and features a large, dark exclamation point cutout in the center. The background shows a field of tall grass or reeds under a cloudy sky.

A road rarely taken

Seeking to promote investment, tourism, North Korea allows two US journalists to embark on a trip — with restrictions — to the country's spiritual summit

By ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

WHEN North Korea opens its doors, it does so for a reason. So it was when the authoritarian government granted permission for a road trip so extensive that few North Koreans — let alone a pair of American journalists — could imagine taking it.

We drove 2,150 kilometers (1,336 miles) in a country that has barely 25,000 kilometers of road, and only 724 kilometers of those paved. By the time we returned to the capital a week later, our Chinese-made Great Wall SUV had a few new scratches and one less hubcap.

Our official destination was majestic Mount Paektu, with its jagged peaks surrounding a crystal-blue crater lake. North Korea is pursuing a plan to create dozens of special foreign investment and tourism zones, and this is one of the places it most wants to promote.

The easiest way to get there is to fly, but we had been granted permission to drive. This, we were told, would mean traveling through places that no foreign journalists had been allowed to see before.

Still, the trip was on North Korea's terms.

An exclamation point punctuates a long propaganda slogan in a field in North Korea's North Hamgyong province. The Associated Press was granted permission to embark on a weeklong road trip across North Korea to the country's spiritual summit, Mount Paektu.

DAVID GUTTENFELDER/AP

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

WORLD



PHOTOS BY DAVID GUTTENFELDER/AP

A man takes shelter in the rain next to propaganda billboards in the town of Samjiyon in North Korea's Ryanggang province on June 17.

FROM PAGE 12

Even on the loneliest of lonely highways, we would never be without a "minder," whose job was to monitor and supervise our activities. We were not to take photographs of any checkpoints or military installations, or talk to people we happened to see along the way. For the most part, we were not to detour from our pre-approved route, which, to no one's surprise, didn't include nuclear facilities or prison camps.

Though we would not get to know the people along the way, the country itself had a great deal to say. And no place is more symbolic of the North Korean psyche than Mount Paektu.

North Koreans venerate it for its natural beauty, but more importantly because it is considered the home of the North Korean revolution. It is dotted by reconstructions of "secret camps," where guides dressed in period costume recount the legends of Kim Il Sung's battles against Japanese imperialists.

Before we left Pyongyang, the capital, we were warned, half-jokingly, not to get lost. Mount Paektu straddles North Korea's border with China.

"If you wander off into China," we were told, "you will be shot."

Something similar had, in fact, happened many years ago. No borders were involved, but a South Korean housewife who strayed off the accepted path at a tourist site was fatally shot in the back by a North Korean guard.



A man sits by a cooking fire he built to roast potatoes and chicken in Samjiyon.

Nothing so dramatic had happened as we made our way across the country to the mountain.

Wrested out of our beds for our ascent up to the summit after four days on the road, we fumbled without lights to pack our equipment, made our way down our hotel's candlelit staircase and climbed into our car in the pouring rain. With no signs to guide him, our driver steered silently into the night.

Many people have been amazed by nighttime satellite images that show North Korea as dark as the ocean, set against a northeast Asia brimming with light. There is nothing in the world like ex-



Farmers walk in a rainstorm with their cattle near Hyesan in Ryanggang province on June 16.

periencing that darkness on the ground over long stretches of the North Korean back country. Possibly more than any other populated place on the globe, North Korea is terra incognita.

As we drove toward the dawn, two armed soldiers emerged from the darkness, signaled for us to stop and for our minder to get out. The rain was coming down harder as they stood in the blurry pool of our headlights.

One peered in at us through the rain-dotted window. There was a good deal of gesticulating. Then some head nodding. Our minder got back in the car.

We had gotten lost, but we weren't in China. We were going the wrong way down a one-lane, one-way road.

The soldiers waved us on. With North Korean tourism still in its infancy, we were safe. We wouldn't see another car until we reached the snowy, wind-whipped parking lot below the crater, where two small vans full of shivering Chinese waited for a guard to wake up and lead them to Lake Chon.



North Korean men share a picnic lunch and North Korean-brewed and -bottled Taedonggang beer along the road in North Hwanghae province. An AP reporter and photographer weren't allowed to interview people during their weeklong drive through the country.

WORLD

Gunbattles mar calm in Chechnya

By MUSA SADULAYEV
The Associated Press

GROZNY, Russia — Security forces in the capital of Russia's North Caucasus republic of Chechnya stormed two buildings, including a school, in fierce gunbattles with militants early Thursday that left at least 19 dead, authorities said.

The fighting, which punctured the patina of stability ensured by years of heavy-handed rule by the Kremlin-appointed leader, erupted just hours before Russian President Vladimir Putin was to give his annual state of the nation address in Moscow.

In his address, Putin said he was confident that local Chechen forces were capable of dealing with the "rebels," who he suggested were receiving support from abroad.

The National Anti-Terrorist Committee said militants traveling in three cars entered the republic's capital, Grozny, at 1 a.m., killing three traffic police at a checkpoint, and then occupied the 10-story Press House in the center of the city.

The federal agency said six gunmen were killed inside the building, which was gutted in a blazing fire that spread to a nearby market. More gunmen were later found in a nearby school and security forces were sent to "liquidate" them, the agency said.

No students or teachers were in the school when it was seized by the militants, RIA Novosti quoted vice principal Islam Dzhabrailov as saying.

Russian state television showed video footage of security officers firing automatic weapons and grenade launchers at the three-story school, its windows left shattered and charred.

Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, who traveled to Moscow for Putin's address in the Kremlin, told journalists afterward that the security operation was completed and his forces had killed at least nine militants.

The National Anti-Terrorist Committee said 10 officers were killed and 28 wounded in the fight against the militants, who it said were from a known group operating in the North Caucasus.

Kadyrov said the militants



MUSA SADULAYEV/AP

Shells and a burned police car litter an empty square Thursday outside a burned-out publishing house in central Grozny, Russia. A gunbattle broke out early Thursday in Chechnya, hours before Russian President Vladimir Putin's annual state of the nation address in Moscow.

were connected to Doku Umarov, a Chechen and longtime leader of Islamic militants in the North Caucasus who died last year.

Although unrest is common across the largely Muslim region in southern Russia, forceful security measures adopted by Kadyrov spared Grozny significant

violence for several years.

The relative calm has allowed Putin to claim success in subduing the Islamic insurgency in Chechnya after years of war.

The Kavkaz Center website, a mouthpiece for Islamic militant groups operating in the North Caucasus, carried a link to a video

message by an individual claiming responsibility for the attacks. The man in the video claimed to be operating under orders from Chechen Islamist leader Aslan Byutukayev, known to his followers as Emir Khamzat.

The video could not immediately be verified.

Al-Qaida in Yemen threatens US hostage

The Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Al-Qaida's branch in Yemen threatened an American hostage kidnapped over a year ago, giving Washington three days to meet unspecified demands in a new video released Thursday.

The hostage, identified as Luke Somers, 33, an American photojournalist born in Britain, is shown for the first time in the video, which was posted on the al-Qaida offshoot's Twitter account. The video comes weeks after an attempt by U.S. special forces to rescue Somers and other hostages in a raid in the remote Yemeni desert.

The footage apparently seeks to mimic hostage videos released by al-Qaida's rivals from the Islamic State group, which has threatened — and later beheaded — several American and British hostages in the aftermath of a summer blitz that captured much of Iraq and Syria. The Islamic State fighters have at times belated al-Qaida and prompted defections among their rivals.

Somers was kidnapped in September 2013 from a street in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, where he had worked as a freelancer for the Yemen Times.

The Pentagon said Thursday the hostage rescue mission last month failed to liberate Somers because he was not at the targeted location.

Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby, said in a brief written statement Thursday that the U.S. government was acknowledging the

attempted rescue of Somers, the only American among the roughly dozen hostages held by Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, a Yemen-based al-Qaida offshoot.

Kirby said the Pentagon wanted to "provide accurate information" in light of the fact that the rescue attempt has been widely reported. Eight hostages were rescued, as has been reported previously.

Kirby said details about the mission remain classified.

White House spokeswoman Bernadette Meehan said the mission was coordinated with the Yemeni government and undertaken by U.S. and Yemeni forces.

"The overriding concern for Mr. Somers' safety and the safety of the U.S. forces who undertake these missions made it imperative that we not disclose information related to Mr. Somers' captivity and the attempted rescue," Meehan said, adding that the mission was being disclosed now because of the video released Thursday.

In the 3-minute video, Somers appears somber and gives a brief statement in English, asking for help.

"It's now been well over a year since I've been kidnapped in Sanaa," Somers said. "Basically, I'm looking for any help that can get me out of this situation. I'm certain that my life is in danger. So as I sit here now, I ask, if anything can be done, please let it be done. Thank you very much."

Before Somers' statement, the



MILITANT VIDEO/AP

This image made from video posted online by militants on Thursday shows Luke Somers, an American photojournalist held hostage by al-Qaida's affiliate in Yemen.

video shows local al-Qaida commander Nasser bin Ali al-Ansi, reading in Arabic and speaking about alleged American "crimes against" the Muslim world.

Al-Ansi criticizes US-led airstrikes against the Islamic State group and President Barack Obama for his "latest foolish action," referring to the "failed operation" in Hadramawt. He says an "elite group of mujahideen," or holy warriors, were killed in the U.S. raid. He also warned the U.S. against more "stupidities," referring to attempts to rescue hostages.

Al-Ansi gives the U.S. three days to meet al-Qaida's demands or "otherwise, the American hostage held by us will meet his inevitable fate," without elaborating or explicitly saying they would kill their captive. He doesn't specify the demands.

Emirate police make arrest in teacher's death

The Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — The United Arab Emirates' interior minister said Thursday that police have arrested a female suspect in the stabbing death of an American schoolteacher in the country's capital and revealed that the attacker also planted a bomb outside the home of another American.

Interior Minister Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan said the makeshift bomb was left at the house of an American doctor and that police dismantled it after it was discovered by one of the physician's sons.

Word of the gruesome killing in a public restroom at a mall in Abu Dhabi has rattled the Emirates, a Western-allied, seven-state Gulf federation that includes the glitzy commercial hub of Dubai. It is home to a large foreign-born population, who far outnumber Emirati citizens.

Police say the teacher was stabbed to death by a butcher's knife-wielding attacker wearing the full black veil commonly worn by women throughout the Gulf Arab region.

Footprints Recruiting, a Vancouver, British Columbia-based teacher recruitment company that found a job for the victim, identified her as Ibohya Ryan.

"We await the results of the ongoing police investigation before making conclusions about why this senseless tragedy occurred," the company said. "We are confident that the UAE in general and Abu Dhabi in particular remains a safe environment in which to live and work."

Police earlier said the victim had 11-year-old twins and that they were being kept in protective custody until their father, who is the victim's ex-husband, arrived in the country.

WORLD



AP

If you live in North Korea, your name is Kim Jong Un and you aren't this man, the government reportedly will make sure you change your name.

North Korea is open to change — if your name is Kim Jong Un

BY ISHAAN THAROOR
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Kim Jong Un, North Korea's young dictator, sits at the top of a nation that for decades has enshrined the ruling Kim dynasty as demigods. The personality cult that surrounds the hermit kingdom's leadership is one of the strange realities of this pariah state, spawning eerie totalitarian spectacles and the most vigorous displays of clapping the world has ever seen.

It also leads to whole ranks of the population having to surrender their names.

According to a new report on a South Korean TV station, North Korean authorities issued a directive in 2011 — when Kim Jong Un came to power after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il — to reject birth certificates of newborns named Kim Jong Un and to revise the official documentation and identity cards of those who

still had that name.

"All party organs and public security authorities should make a list of residents named Kim Jong Un, ... and train them to voluntarily change their names," read the document, which was revealed by the KBS-TV station on Tuesday. "Authorities should make sure that there is no one making unnecessary complaints or spreading gossip ... regarding this project," it said.

The document had been obtained by a North Korean defector who reached South Korea in 2008. As is often the case with these sorts of revelations, its authenticity cannot be independently confirmed.

But the order, if true, should not come as a surprise. Both Kim's father and grandfather Kim Il Sung instituted the same vanity project, insisting on being the first and last holders of their names.

Japan sends rocket to blow crater into asteroid

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A Japanese space explorer took off Wednesday on a six-year journey to blow a crater in a remote asteroid and bring back rock samples in hopes of gathering clues to the origin of Earth.

The explorer, named Hayabusa2, is expected to reach the asteroid in mid-2018, spend about 18 months studying it and return in late 2020.

A small device will separate from the explorer and shoot a projectile to blast open a crater several feet in diameter. The explorer, which will hide behind the asteroid during the blast, will then try to collect material from inside the crater.

Asteroids can provide evidence

not available on Earth about the birth of the solar system and its evolution. JAXA, Japan's space agency, said the research could help explain the origin of seawater and how the planet Earth was formed.

Hayabusa2 will attempt to expand on the work of Hayabusa, a previous explorer that returned in 2010 after collecting material from the surface of another asteroid. By reaching inside an asteroid this time, the new explorer may recover material that is not as weathered by the space environment and heat.

Hayabusa2, which was launched from Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan, is a rectangular unit with two sets of solar panels sticking out from its sides.



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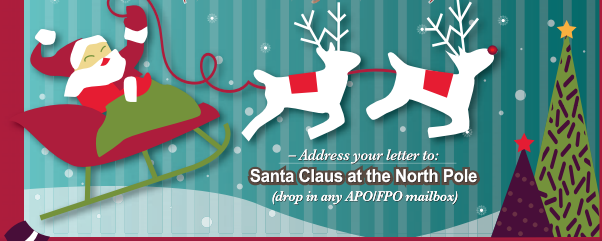
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EUROPE



PHOTOS BY MATTHIAS SCHRADER/AP

Above and top left: Woodcarver Hans Schwabl works on a traditional wooden Perchten mask in his factory in Inzell, southern Germany, on Nov. 27. The masks are made for the Saint Nicolas Buttmandl and Perchten parades in November and December around the Alp regions in southern Germany and Austria. Left: Schwabl's son, Tobias, looks over his dad's shoulder as he paints a mask.

Faces of Christmas in Germany

Woodcarver makes traditional holiday masks

The Associated Press

INZELL, Germany — Hans Schwabl has carved masks out of wood for a decade, turning the craft from his native Bavarian town of Inzell into a Christmas hobby.

The masks are worn by companions of Saint Nicholas who go house-to-house with gifts in an early December tradition. Each mask takes about 20 to 30 hours

of work to produce, and Schwabl has lost track of how many he has made.

The 26-year-old makes the first rough cuts in a piece of pine with a chain saw and carves the rest by hand.

After carefully painting the mask, he adds hair from horse or sheep. Glass eyes are inserted as the finishing touch.

The 9- to 11-pound masks sell for between \$300 and \$750.



Above: Schwabl carves a mask in his factory. Left: Some of his masks are displayed in the factory.

STARS AND STRIPES.

National
Pearl Harbor
Remembrance Day
December 7, 2014



WORLD



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER/AP

A human skeleton found beneath a car park in Leicester, England, in 2012, has been declared "beyond reasonable doubt" to be the remains of England's King Richard III, missing for 500 years.

No bones about it: Remains are royal

By MARIA CHENG
The Associated Press

LONDON — Scientists say there is "overwhelming evidence" that a skeleton found under a parking lot is that of England's King Richard III, but their DNA testing also has raised questions about the nobility of some of his royal successors.

The bones of the 15th-century king were dug up in the city of Leicester in 2012, and experts have published initial data suggesting they belong to Richard, including an analysis of his curved spine and the injuries that killed him.

Richard was the last English monarch to die on a battlefield, in 1485.

In the new study — probably the oldest forensic case ever solved — scientists compared DNA from the skeleton with that of living relatives and analyzed DNA data identifying eye and hair color, which they matched to the earliest known portrait of the king.

"The probability that this is Richard is 99.999 percent," said Turi King, a geneticist at the University of Leicester who led the research. When she and colleagues compared the skeleton's DNA obtained from the ground-up powder of one tooth and a leg bone to samples provided by a 14th cousin on Richard's maternal side, they found a perfect match.

Based on the skeleton's DNA, King and colleagues hypothesized that Richard had blue eyes and blond hair in childhood, which darkened with age. With no contemporary paintings of the king available, they compared their findings with the earliest known painting of him, which depicts the monarch with light brown hair and blue eyes, painted about 25 years after his death.

The research was published Tuesday in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Scientists also compared the skeleton's DNA with samples from living relatives on Richard's father's side. They found no match, a discovery that could throw the nobility of some royals into question.

While researchers weren't able to say where on the family



A portrait of King Richard III.

tree the adultery occurred, they said the findings potentially raise questions about the legitimacy of Henry V, Henry VI and the entire Tudor dynasty, including Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

Still, Kevin Schurer, pro vice chancellor of the University of Leicester and another study author, said claims to the throne are based on more than simply having royal blood and also rest on other things such as battlefield victories and royal marriages.

He said England's current royal family — which has a line of descent from the House of Tudor — should not be worried. "We are not in any way indicating that Her Majesty (Elizabeth II) shouldn't be on the throne," Schurer said.

Researchers said it was the first time there was scientific evidence that questioned medieval lines of succession in the monarchy.

Baby name sparks debate

By ADAM TAYLOR
The Washington Post

In Britain, baby names became a big subject of debate last week when a new poll from the website BabyCentre appeared to show that Mohammed was now the most popular name for newborn boys in the country.

It seemed to show a significant change in the culture of a country where "British"-sounding names like Oliver and Jack had long dominated — and where a growing immigrant population is making an impact.

"Traditionally, Muhammad is often the name given to the first-born boy in Muslim families," Sarah Redshaw, managing editor of BabyCentre, explained to the Telegraph. "With the increase of other Arabic names plus Aarav, an Indian boy's name, the top 100 shows the ever-increasing diversity of the U.K. today."

Among a certain audience, this was difficult news. "They are only

4 percent of the population yet Mohammed is the most popular boys name in the UK," wrote one Twitter user. "England is lost already." The Daily Mail turned off its commenting system when they wrote about the finding.

This wasn't an unexpected reaction. The Muslim minority in the U.K. may be relatively small, but it is often the source of controversy. Some people appeared to be taking the rise of the baby name as a sign of a demographic shift. While British Muslims make up less than 5 percent of the country at present, Pew has predicted that the population will reach more than 8 percent by 2030. Britain will almost certainly have a larger Muslim minority in the future.

Still, that projected number falls short of total domination of British life, and a number of British publications soon began to question the BabyCentre's numbers. The Guardian, for instance, pointed out that official statistics from the British government appeared to

show that Mohammed was not the most popular name, and that instead, names like "Oliver," "Jack" and "Harry" dominated. Mohammed was the 15th-most popular boy's name in England and Wales and the 52nd-most popular in Scotland, the Guardian noted.

The Independent, in return, debunked their debunking. It argued that official British government statistics failed to distinguish between the many different transliterations of the Arabic word for Mohammed. And while you can make the argument that, in that case, Oliver and Ollie should be combined (which would, again, make it the most popular name), Islamic experts told the newspaper that wasn't a fair comparison.

Whatever side of that debate you fall on, it's worth realizing that Mohammed has an advantage in these figures. In Islamic culture, there is a relative small number of names to choose from, and the practice of naming your first child after the prophet is widespread.

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WORLD



PHOTOS BY DENIS FARRELL/AP



In an effort to protect the animals from poachers, rangers from Kruger National Park in Skukuza, South Africa, rounded up about 45 rhinos last month and placed them into a protected zone within the park. Prior to being transported, the rhinos were tranquilized, blindfolded and tagged with microchips for monitoring and identification purposes.



Out of harm's way

S. Africa trying to save rhinos by moving them away from poachers

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
The Associated Press

The rhino crashes forward, pounding the earth with its broad feet. Then, as a dart's sedative takes hold, it staggers and slouches to the ground, where South African rangers prepare to move the oversized beast by truck to an area they hope is safe from poachers.

Kruger National Park has conducted about 45 such captures since October, part of a plan to create a stronghold within the country's flagship reserve where rhinos will get extra protection from poachers, many of whom cross from neighboring Mozambique and are slaughtering the animals in increasing numbers. Some rhinos were moved to other parks, and the relocation "experiment," as rangers describe it, is likely to escalate next year.

Safe havens or buffer zones have been hotly debated over the years as a way to protect civilians in some of the world's major conflicts. South Africa is applying a variation of the idea to wildlife to try to stem surging demand for rhino horn. Some consumers in Asia, primarily Vietnam and China, view rhino horn as a status symbol and a healing agent despite a lack of evidence that it can cure. The horn is made of keratin, a protein also found in human fingernails.

The so-called "intensive protection zone" in the southern part of Kruger National Park took on new urgency when South Africa, home to 80 percent of the world's rhinos, announced recently that 1,020 rhinos have been poached so far in 2014, exceeding last year's record of 1,004.

About two-thirds of the rhinos poached this year died in Kruger, a park that's about the size of Israel. Poachers often dodge an overstretched force of 400 rangers as well as some military units that monitor the 220-mile border between Kruger and Mozambique, and they shoot rhinos just before sunset and scot back to Mozambique under the cover of night, according to rangers.

The protection zone encompasses about 1,900 square miles and is home to many of Kruger's roughly 10,000 rhinos — half the national population. Rhinos were reintroduced in southern Kruger in the 1960s after poachers had wiped them out.

The goal is "to basically ensure that you've got a foundation of animals that are secure and that you can use as a source population to take elsewhere," said Markus Hofmeyr, head of veterinary services at Kruger park.

Kruger will focus aircraft, ranger teams and high-tech surveillance on the zone. The initiative is partly funded by American philanthropist Howard Buffett, a son of investor Warren Buffett who pledged nearly \$24 million to Kruger's anti-poaching efforts. Howard Buffett has said some of the same methods used by the United States to monitor its border with Mexico will be used in Kruger, including aerostats — large, tethered balloons with infrared cameras that scan the landscape.

Last month, journalists watched separate operations in which two rhinos were removed from poaching "hotspots" near the Mozambique border and loaded onto trucks for transfer to the protection zone. The animals were darted from a helicopter, which then flew low, herding them toward a road. Once the rhinos were subdued and blindfolded, rangers took blood and skin samples and installed a microchip in the horns as a way to identify Kruger's stock, all the while monitoring body temperature.

The sedative must be strong enough to immobilize a rhino but weak enough so that the animal can, with men pushing and pulling it with a rope, walk into a crate. Hofmeyr said he can administer an injection that partly reverses the effect of the sedative.

Relocated rhinos have adapted well to their new home, said Dr. Sam Ferreira, a large mammal ecologist at Kruger. He said: "It's like they're coming to a Saturday afternoon party."

WAR/MILITARY



PHOTOS BY RAHMAT GUL/AP

Afghanistan's first amusement park is City Park in Kabul, where lines form behind the barbed-wire security fence outside the park.

Park gives kids relief from Afghan miseries

By RAHIM FAIEZ
The Associated Press

Excitement builds in the queue forming behind the barbed-wire security fence outside Afghanistan's first amusement park as children in bright clothes clutch their parents' hands and hop from foot to foot in anticipation of the pleasures waiting behind the high concrete blast walls.

For the thousands of families who have

visited Kabul's City Park since it opened during a national religious holiday weekend in October, it is a rare escape from lives blighted by war, death and misery.

Squealing children hardly know where to look as they race through the gates. Inside, they find large friendly characters that look almost, but not quite, like Minnie Mouse and Tom the cat from Tom and Jerry — all dancing together and dispensing hugs.

Traditional fairground rides — including a Ferris wheel and bumper cars — attract the older kids, while a carousel, face painting and games keep younger children happy.

"It's very nice. Everything is very beautiful. The carousel horse ride is nice," Sadaf, 6, said through a gap-toothed grin as she had her face decorated like a mouse.

Set at the foot of the snow-capped Hindu Kush mountains, next to the filthy Kabul River and near a zoo famous only for its abused, one-eyed lion, City Park is one of the few places residents of the Afghan capital can take their children for a relaxing day out.

The city of almost 6 million people is a virtual fortress. Major build-



Children enjoy a carousel ride at City Park in Kabul.

ings are protected by concrete and barbed wire, and roads are choked with traffic as former thoroughfares are blocked to prevent suicide bombers reaching potential targets like the Presidential Palace. Gun-toting security forces guard almost every street corner.

Afghanistan has been at war for more than 30 years, and while U.S. and NATO combat troops prepare to leave this month, the Taliban insurgency shows no sign of abating.

Few families in Kabul have been untouched by the violence, said Almas Qaseemi, the park's deputy general manager.

"The park is a place for entertainment, and there is not much of that in Afghanistan," Qaseemi said. "We have a great feeling when we see our people forget their sorrows for a few minutes and smile when they come here."

Thousands come every day, he said, peaking on the weekly Friday holiday at

close to 10,000.

The park is set on 24 acres of land owned by the Kabul Municipal Government and leased for five years to a private company called Mufkora — which means "concept" in English.

Rahela Kohistani, the municipality's cultural director, said \$1.5 million has been invested in the park, with the municipal authority taking 26 percent of profits and the rest going to Mufkora.

"So far we are happy, and it seems that people are happy, too," she said.

For Ishfaq Ahmad Adeb, 20, who spends his days at City Park as Tom the cat, and Omid, 18, who plays Minnie Mouse, the children's joy rubs off.

"When the children see me in this outfit, they really believe that Minnie Mouse has come to Kabul," Omid said. "They laugh and try to shake hands with me; they really enjoy it."



Sadaf, 6, gets his face painted at Afghanistan's amusement park.

FAITH

By LILLY FOWLER
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The first time the public heard the name Renita Lamkin in the same sentence as Ferguson, Mo., was probably the day she was shot.

In early August, four days after Michael Brown was killed by Officer Darren Wilson, Lamkin, a pastor, stood with Ferguson protesters, attempting to mediate. Police had warned the crowd to disperse and in an effort to buy a little time, Lamkin shouted, "They're leaving!"

"That's when I felt a pop in the stomach," Lamkin says now of the rubber pellet that hit her. The pellet left a ghastly wound — large, deep and purplish — and created a social media frenzy. Tweet after tweet showed Lamkin, 44, with short, light-brown hair and a wide smile. She wore a T-shirt with an image of a cross that she lifted up just slightly to show off the ugly bruise. In the coming days, critics said police had already managed to shoot a white Christian lady.

Lamkin says she didn't really have a plan when she ventured out to Ferguson but that "the whole being shot thing was probably the best thing that could have happened." The injury had cemented Lamkin in the struggle for racial equality.

"They say, 'You took a bullet for us.' I have no sense of taking a bullet for someone. My sense is that I'm in the struggle. I'm in it. We're in this together, and I was playing my role," Lamkin said.

Fast forward a few months and Lamkin continues to deliver the same message of defiance as pastor of an African Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Charles. The AME denomination is a religious movement born out of the resistance to slavery with about 2.5 million members, most of them black.

"We can boldly resist those who try to silence us. We can and should be defiant," Lamkin told her congregation on a recent Sunday at St. John AME Church. "There will always be those who discount the voice of the poor." But "we don't have to accept the conditions of this world."

Although Lamkin is mother to two black children, her role as a white leader in the African Methodist Episcopal Church is unusual. "She's a rare breed of person to be both white and female in an overwhelming black denomination where the ministry is overwhelming male," said Michael Joseph Brown, academic dean at Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, Ohio. Brown said Lamkin, who graduated from Payne in 2014, was the only white person in her graduating class.

Dennis C. Dickerson, a history professor at Vanderbilt University who taught Lamkin, said the "social protest and social insurgency" ethos that's "baked into the church's DNA" clearly appealed to her.

While the church's philosophy informs her work in Ferguson, Lamkin acknowledges that the experiences her children had growing up in St. Louis also influence her decision to continue to be actively engaged in the protests.

"My kids would be suspended for things that other kids would just have a detention for," Lamkin said when describing the treatment of blacks in schools. "It's the education system. It's the job situation. Lack of resources. It's painting all these kids as if they're these gangsters who are out killing everybody."

Lamkin said she's outraged by what she sees as unnecessary police brutality, even in cases where the victim may have been guilty of certain crimes. "Does that require a death sentence? And how did the police on the street get to be judge, jury and executioner?"

Lamkin was sitting next to her mother in the front seat of the family's car when on a rainy day in 1975 a pickup truck slammed into them. Her mother died in the wreck. Lamkin was just 4. Lamkin said she and her three siblings were reared by their grandmother, though she was already in her 60s and clearly done parenting, resorting sometimes to both physical and verbal abuse.

Still, Lamkin said that from an early age she read the Bible three or four times

a year and could rattle off scripture on command.

"First person I led to Christ, I was like 8 or 10 or something," said Lamkin, who grew up in the Pentecostal church in Kansas City. "I was out knocking on doors after church asking people if they knew Jesus Christ."

As a child, Lamkin said, she even ran a Bible school in the yard. "I made my brother bring his friends," Lamkin said with a laugh. "I went, rounded them up, and beat them up and made them come."

But Lamkin's involvement with religion was not always so playful. She said she was sexually abused by a youth pastor, as well as a cousin. She was also severely mistreated by the father of her children. The two met in high school and were together for seven years. Lamkin said she knew she had to leave him on the day that he threatened her with a gun and accidentally shot himself instead. "That is when I said to God, 'You got to get me out of here; one of us is going to die,'" Lamkin said. "I'm either going to kill him trying to stay alive, or he's going to kill me."

Lamkin's escape route was a secret post office box. There she collected the checks the state sent her as reimbursement for the meals she served at her home day care. When she had enough money to put down

a payment for a rental property, she and an old high school girlfriend loaded up a car with everything they could and left.

Because she grew up in a faith that wasn't particularly friendly to female leaders, Lamkin said, she expected to be a missionary or a pastor's wife. Yet because of her knowledge of scripture, Lamkin was repeatedly invited to preach. She said her fate was sealed when in Bible study she met a woman pastor in the AME church.

"I talk too much, you know. I get on people's nerves, I'm abrasive, so my personality — sometimes it takes a little bit to warm up to," Lamkin said. But "people trust me with their stories and trust me to speak from God's heart to theirs, and I don't take that trust lightly."

Lamkin said the simple act of arresting Wilson would have sent a badly needed message.

"Even if it didn't go anywhere, the arrest itself would say that we are making a shift and that there is accountability. It would be a start," Lamkin said. "The way things are now, police are protected, and they can act on their opinion and be protected."

"If you're so afraid of the people that you are serving, then you need to stop serving those people."

"They can't, Lamkin said, "shoot first and figure it out later."



Pastor Renita Lamkin, far right, joins the choir in song at St. John's AME Church on Oct. 26 in St. Charles, Mo. "[P]eople trust me with their stories and trust me to speak from God's heart to theirs, and I don't take that trust lightly," she said.



PHOTOS BY J.B. FORBES, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/MCT

Lamkin, second from right, joins the protesters who confronted Missouri Highway Patrol Col. Ron Johnson in Ferguson, Mo., in August.

On Ferguson's front lines Pastor paves her own way

WEEKEND



'Far Cry 4' intense, action-packed
Page 35

CRUMMY IDEAS

O Canada
O Rob

The Dave Barry Gift Guide toasts the spirit of giving terrible presents
Page 24

If boring phone selfies aren't enough, there's the selfie toaster, demonstrated here with an image of former Toronto mayor Rob Ford.
Bob Eighnie, Miami Herald/TNS

WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



Screenshot

The video game "That Dragon, Cancer," aims to teach players about illness, death and suffering. The usual questions about whether it's fun or challenging don't apply.

'Dragon' brings serious, real-life ordeal to gaming

BY TODD MARTENS
Los Angeles Times

One of the first things you hear in Ryan Green's video game is a voice mail. Though it's not a horror game, the sound isn't just frightening; it's borderline bone-chilling.

A woman leaving a message for her husband sounds exasperated. She's leaving the doctor's office and coming home without any answers. The couple's baby boy is vomiting. Maybe it's this? Maybe it's that? There is no diagnosis. And why is the child's head always coked to one side?

Everyone is thinking the worst, but no one is saying it.

At this point the player can see a glimpse of the boy, whose name is Joel. The voice mail, it turns out, was a memory. And Joel, now older, is on a slide in a park. He's almost 5. His older brother wants to know why he doesn't talk. Yet Joel still has the ability to bring a smile to people's faces — and to player's faces, such as the moment when he tries to feed a duck in a pond by throwing an entire loaf of bread at the animal. Is Joel going to be OK? Just like so often in the real world, the answers may be unclear or unpleasant, but this is not a game about solutions.

This is "That Dragon, Cancer," an independent video game that raises the sort of big questions video games have long avoided. The common ones — Is it challenging? Is it fun? — are practically irrelevant here. Green and a small team that includes his wife, Amy, are after something more ambitious. Can a video game teach us something about death? Or, maybe more accurately, can a video game be a memoir?

"That Dragon, Cancer" copes with loss and heartbreak via wishful thinking, imagining at times an alternate past and future while the outcome stubbornly refuses to change.

Although writing about cancer is relatively common in literature, it's a rarity in gaming. Discussing the illness — and how it affects a family whose son was ultimately diagnosed with terminal brain cancer — is a major risk in a medium where play is paramount.

Now two years into development, Green and his team have turned to the crowd-funding site Kickstarter in the hopes of keeping the project independent. At the time of writing, with three weeks left to secure funds, "That Dragon, Cancer" has raised just shy of \$70,000 of its \$85,000 goal.

The game is in development for PCs and Macs, and Green has also been working closely with Ouya, an independent publisher and home console maker. There's even a documentary in the works, "Thank You for Playing," which filmmakers David Ost and Malika Zouhali-Worrall intend to bring to film festivals in 2015.

"That Dragon, Cancer," says Ost, seems "like a special way to approach the unapproachable."

But making people curious isn't the same as making them want to play, and Green knows his game can't make players uncomfortable — well, too uncomfortable.

"I would love it if people are willing to trust us, to go there with us," Green says. "We're not trying to hurt you. Give us a shot. But there are certain movies I haven't watched on purpose because it's a lot of cancer. I know I'm asking a kid of people."

GADGET WATCH

Food thermometer talks to your phone

BY GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

The innovative Kitchen Thermometer mini from iDevices connects to your smartphone or tablet and alerts you when your cooking item is at the desired temperature.

It's built like an oversized hockey puck and connects to a probe, which wirelessly works with a free iDevices Connected app available for iOS and Android systems.

The app allows you to customize your cooking to let you know when it reaches a specific temperature (from 22 to 572 degrees).

With dual probes, you can monitor two temperatures simultaneously from up to 150 feet of Bluetooth Smart Range.

The back is magnetic so you can mount it on an appliance for easy viewing.

Online: iDevicesInc.com; \$79.99

Logitech's Type+ case for iPad

Air 2 holds your tablet in place and folds up to protect it when not in use.

The keyboard connects to the tablet with Bluetooth technology. Obviously, the keyboard isn't full-size, but everything you would expect from a keyboard is there: shift, delete, return and tab, to name a few.

The Logitech website states that when you combine the case with your iPad, the result "looks like an iPad, feels like a laptop," which I can say is fairly accurate.

The case lets you adjust the angle of your screen, and the keys flow with comfort like a keyboard should.

It measures 7.23 by 10.23 by 0.67 inches and weighs 15.2 ounces before attaching your iPad. The shell protects it from bumps, scratches and spills.

A single microUSB cable (cable included) can last up to three months, and there are battery-saving features such as putting the keyboard to sleep.

Online: Logitech.com; \$99.99

The Stance is a compact tripod from Kenu that's designed specifically for iPhones.

It mounts directly into the iPhone's Lightning port using Kenu's patent pending MicroMount.

This is connected to a ball-and-pivot joint to let the phone tilt and rotate freely to find your perfect angle in landscape or portrait positioning.

It weighs just 1.2 ounces and when folded, it's about the size of a pack of gum. Added bonus — it has a bottle opener built into one of the legs.

Online: Kenu.com; \$29.95

Ollclip's 4-in-1 photo lenses are available for the iPhone 6/iPhone 6 plus with three key new innovations.

They have front- and rear-facing cameras designed to help with iPhoneographers taking photos or just selfies. The new model fits both iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus models.

A wearable customizable pendant is included with the Ollclip to clip it to something for safekeeping and easy access.

The 4-in-1 kit includes fisheye and wide-angle lenses; the 10x and 15x macro lenses are grouped together on a single clip-on device. All you do is screw/uncrew or clip on the one you want.

Online: Ollclip.com; \$79.99

The Soundcap Beanie from 808 Audio is made with a polyester cotton blend to fit snugly on your head, but what makes it unique is the built-in speaker you can connect to your smartphone, or any device with a 3.5mm connection.

There's even an in-line microphone to take calls through your hat.

Online: 808audio.com; \$19.99 with free shipping



Photos by TNS

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for Dec. 3:

1. "Blank Space," Taylor Swift
2. "The Hanging Tree," James Newton Howard
3. "Uptown Funk (feat. Bruno Mars)," Mark Ronson
4. "Take Me to Church," Hozier
5. "The Heart Wants What It Wants," Selena Gomez
6. "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
7. "I'm Not the Only One," Sam Smith
8. "Lips Are Movin'," Meghan Trainor
9. "Jealous," Nick Jonas
10. "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift

— Compiled by TNS

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The most streamed tracks on Spotify from Nov. 24-30:

1. "Take Me to Church," Hozier
2. "Love Me Harder," Ariana Grande
3. "I'm Not the Only One," Sam Smith
4. "The Heart Wants What It Wants," Selena Gomez
5. "I Don't — With You," Big Sean
6. "Animals," Maroon 5
7. "Jealous," Nick Jonas
8. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
9. "Thinking Out Loud," Ed Sheeran
10. "Habits (Stay High)," Love Lo

— Compiled by TNS

IBOOKS

Bestseller list of paid U.S. iBooks downloads for week ending Dec. 1:

1. "Gone Girl," Gillian Flynn
2. "Unbroken," Laura Hillenbrand
3. "The Burning Room," Michael Connelly
4. "Captivated By You," Sylvia Day
5. "The Escape," David Baldacci
6. "Wild," Cheryl Strayed
7. "Hope to Die," James Patterson
8. "Dark Places," Gillian Flynn
9. "Personals," Lee Child
10. "Big Little Lies," Liane Moriarty

— Compiled by TNS

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer's Top 10 for December:

1. "Super Smash Bros.," Wii U
2. "Dragon Age: Inquisition," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC
3. "Grand Theft Auto V," PS4, Xbox One
4. "Sunset Overdrive," Xbox One
5. "Civilization: Beyond Earth," PC
6. "Halo: The Master Chief Collection," Xbox One
7. "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare," PS4, Xbox One, PC, PS3, 360
8. "Pokémon Omega Ruby & Alpha Sapphire," 3DS
9. "Pro Evolution Soccer 2015," PS4, Xbox One, PC, PS3, 360
10. "Assassin's Creed Rogue," PS3, 360, PC

— Compiled by TNS

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for Dec. 3:

- ANDROID
1. Five Nights at Freddy's 2
 2. Kingdom Rush Origins
 3. The Banner Saga
 4. Dirt Trackin
 5. Pulling USA

Top 5 paid apps for Dec. 3:

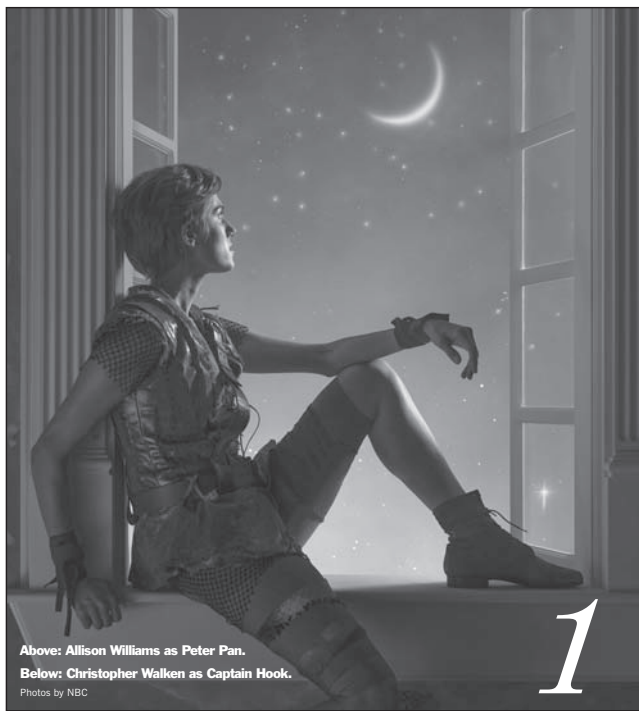
- APPLE
1. Five Nights at Freddy's 2
 2. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
 3. Five Nights at Freddy's
 4. Afterlight Afterlight, Collective
 5. MEGA MAN X

— Compiled by TNS

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



Above: Allison Williams as Peter Pan.

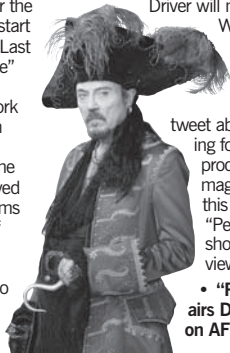
Below: Christopher Walken as Captain Hook.

Photos by NBC

Tune in for 'Peter Pan Live!'

In an era of entertainment that can be recorded or streamed whenever the mood strikes, NBC is trying to start a tradition of must-see live TV. Last year's "The Sound of Music Live!" drew 18.6 million viewers, and the network is betting it can work some pixie magic this year with "Peter Pan Live!" Theater tradition dictates that the boy who never grew up be played by a woman, and Allison Williams ("Girls") actress and daughter of news anchor Brian Williams) is stepping into those shadowless shoes. Christopher Walken, who did a lot of on-stage acting in his early years, joins the cast

as Captain Hook, and actress Minnie Driver will narrate.



Whether you're "hate watching" — hoping for something disastrous to happen so you can tweet about it — or rooting for this very sincere production to work its magic on your heart this holiday season, "Peter Pan Live!" should be interesting viewing.

• "Peter Pan Live!" airs Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. on AFN-movie.

2

Watch space opera on DVD

How the heck do Chris Pratt, green Zoe Saldana, some wrestler dude, a raccoon and a tree stump team up for one of the year's most entertaining movies? We don't know either. What's possibly the biggest cinematic surprise of the year is out on DVD on Tuesday for repeat viewing. Or for holiday gifting to your favorite Marvel fan.

• New DVD releases on Page 39.

3

'Far Cry 4' is cold, cruel fun

How many games have you ever played in which you could ride elephants, shoot at honey badgers and face "demon fish" in the Himalayas? None, we're betting. When you're not battling baddies in this intense open-world shooter, you can glide in a wing suit or just admire the scenery. As long as the honey badgers don't find you.



• Read more about "Far Cry 4" on Page 35.

4

'Star Wars: Episode VII' trailer parodies awaken

Now that you've had a week to watch that Star Wars trailer (over and over — we won't judge), it's time for parodies from clever folks who have too much time on their hands. There's a Lego trailer (of course!); one that mocks director J.J. Abrams' penchant for using excessive lens flares; and a "George Lucas special edition" with extra CGI buddies and generally too much of everything.

• Lego parody: tinyurl.com/mmbwd8q.
• Lens flare parody: tinyurl.com/mmbwd8q.
• Lucas parody: tinyurl.com/glspecial.

WEEKEND: DAVE BARRY HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER SIX/Stars and Stripes

HERE COMES THE CRAP

Once again, Dave Barry offers the gift of laughter, not good ideas

BY DAVE BARRY
McClatchy Newspapers

The holidays are a super-busy time of year, and it's too easy, with all the hustle and bustle, to forget about what this season is really all about. So we will remind you: It's about purchasing high-tech consumer devices at retail.

This is a tradition that dates back to the Nativity, as we can see in this dialogue among the Three Kings, taken verbatim from the Bible:

FIRST KING: OK, we just have to follow that star, and it will guide us.

SECOND KING: Really? That seems kind of vague.

THIRD KING: Why don't I get directions from this new technological device I bought at retail?

FIRST KING: What is it?

THIRD KING: It's a primitive GPS, powered by olive oil.

SECOND KING: What does "GPS" stand for?

THIRD KING: I have no idea. But it has turn-by-turn directions! Listen.

GPS: Turn left at the Sphinx.

FIRST KING: The Sphinx?

SECOND KING: Apparently it thinks we're in Egypt.

FIRST KING: OK, like I said, we follow the star.

THIRD KING: I'm glad I bought the service agreement.

We have come a long way since those primitive times, but the basic idea hasn't changed: Each holiday season, we throng to the malls and purchase the absolute latest high-tech items, defined as "items that will be technologically obsolete by Valentine's Day."

Perhaps you're thinking, "But my kids already have every kind of gadget! What else can I possibly buy them, especially if they are boys and therefore likely to use any technology they get hold of for evil purposes?"

How about a drone? That's right: Drones are no longer just military devices used by the government to conduct foreign policy in the form

of vaporizing selected foreigners. Today, relatively inexpensive consumer drones are sold everywhere, and they've become more and more popular.

Recently, I was with some friends enjoying a quiet lunch next to a peaceful pond, when suddenly there was this buzzing sound, and we looked up and saw, flying above us, a consumer drone, which we determined was being controlled by a young man in the distance. He was quite skillful, able to make the drone swoop all around us and hover over us, buzz, buzz, buzz. Haha! Watching this miraculous little machine dance around the sky under the masterful control of

the clever youngster, my friends and I all had the same fanciful thought: I wish I had a shotgun.

For the drone, of course.

But what if you want to go "old school"? What if instead of giving your loved ones high-tech devices that will, in time, become obsolete and useless, you'd prefer to give gifts that are already useless?

In that case, you've come to the right place: our annual Holiday Gift Guide, which has been a beloved American holiday tradition dating back to the dawn of time. Each year, we scour the entire solar system, looking for unique and tasteful gift ideas. Each year, we fail utterly and wind up with a collection of random crap we found on the Internet. This is our holiday gift to you.

As always, we guarantee that the items in this guide are real products you can actually buy if there is something seriously wrong with you. We further guarantee that each of these items has been subjected to our rigorous Holiday Gift Guide Quality Testing Program, under which we remove the item from its packaging and expose it directly to light rays so that Bob the Photographer can take a picture of it. Then we put it back in its packaging and, ideally, never interact with it again.

Sound enticing? You bet it does! So let's "cut to the chase" and take a look at the items that "made the cut" for the 2014 Holiday Gift Guide.



THE DETROIT FREE PRESS/TPS

WEEKEND: DAVE BARRY HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Never worry about going to a dark bathroom at night again with the Night Glow Toilet Seat.

Night Glow toilet seat

\$50 plus shipping and handling from nightglow-seats.com

— Suggested by Bill Hudgins of Gallatin, Tenn.

Don't you hate going into a dark bathroom at night? You stumble around blindly, feeling for the light switch, and then, when you finally turn the light on, it's way too bright. And then you notice that both the toilet and bathtub are missing. And then you realize you're actually in a closet.

At least that's what happens to us. But it won't ever happen to you or some lucky person on your holiday gift list if you buy this glow-in-the-dark toilet seat. It gives off an eerie greenish or bluish light all night long, thanks to a well-known scientific phenomenon that we do not personally understand, although we're hoping it's not atomic radiation.

This thing is amazingly bright. If your electrical power went out, you could actually use it as a flashlight, provided you wouldn't mind walking around holding a toilet seat, which could be embarrassing.

Although not as embarrassing as going to the bathroom in a dark closet. Not that we have ever done that.



PHOTOS BY BOB EIGHME, THE MIAMI HERALD/TNS

The Ostrich Pillow is perfect for anyone who could use a good power nap, which surely includes Santa.

Ostrich pillow

\$99 (price may vary) plus shipping and handling from amazon.com

— Suggested by Frances Biegler of Houston; Mary Wilson of Washington, D.C.; Russ Thomas of Greenfield, Mass.; Cindy Loosterman of Shelby, N.C.; Rolf Phillips of Key West, Fla.; Judi Smith of Miami; Rory Clarke of Coral Gables, Fla.

This is the perfect gift for the busy executive or airline pilot on your holiday gift list who needs to "get away from it all" by power-napping for brief periods, although preferably not during takeoff or landing.

Merman Christmas tree ornament

\$29.99 plus shipping and handling from diamondsofthesea.com

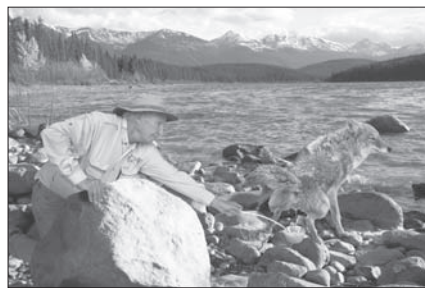
— Suggested by Elaine Ziman of Erie, Colo.

Christmas is a time of tradition, and there is no Christmas tradition more hallowed than merman tree ornaments. These have been part of the holidays for centuries, as expressed in the lyrics to this traditional English Christmas carol:

Oh bring us a figgy pudding
Oh bring us a figgy pudding
And a merman figurine!

These figurines depict ripped muscular six-pack-flaunting fish-tailed mermen, costumed and accessorized and glittered to represent various professions and lifestyles. We purchased a doctor merman; other options (there are dozens) include cowboy, soldier, police officer, firefighter, rock star, vampire and leprechaun.

These will add a festive touch to any tree. Or, at your Christmas party, you can hang one over a doorway and watch in merriment as your guests notice it and, in accordance with an ancient tradition, exclaim, "What the hell is THAT?"



ORIGINAL COYOTE PHOTO COURTESY MIA MCPHERSON

Coyote urine, with infinite uses, is a gift sure to make an impression.

Coyote urine

\$8.99 plus shipping and handling from amazon.com

If you're looking to give a unique gift that will definitely "make an impression," consider coyote urine. It comes in a convenient bottle, and it has countless uses. For example, you can sprinkle some on the ground around your house or garden, and small pests, thinking that a coyote has recently urinated there, will avoid the area. On the other hand, the urine might actually attract coyotes, not to mention larger animals such

as wolves and bears that are interested in eating coyotes. So you could wind up having a very exciting yard. And that's only one of the uses of coyote urine. We frankly don't know what the other ones are.

Maybe if you got called in by the IRS for an audit, you could sprinkle it on your tax records, and maybe that would scare off the auditor. There's only one way to find out.

We don't know how they collect the urine from the coyotes. But that could explain why they're always howling.

Spotted Dick

\$8.10 plus shipping and handling from amazon.com

It's well known that the finest food in the world is English. Every day, millions of people eat it on purpose. And one of the most famous of all English dishes is Spotted Dick, which is

a kind of pudding that you can buy in a can. We think it should replace fruitcake as a traditional treat that people give to other people during the holiday season but would never dream of actually eating themselves. Why not get in on this tradition at the beginning?



Selfie toaster

\$75 from burntimpresions.com

— Suggested by Laura Barry of New York City

If you're like many people, you enjoy taking selfies of yourself every few minutes and sending these via social media to all your friends, who are likewise sending selfies to you and everyone else they know, so that as a group you're spending 70 percent of your waking hours either producing or looking at images of each other grinning like idiots, not that we're being judgmental.

But perhaps you're getting tired of the plain-vanilla selfies. Perhaps you're wondering, "Isn't there some other medium I can use to capture images of myself?"

Yes, there is. And that medium is: toast. We're talking about a historic breakthrough in toaster

technology. The way it works is, you supply an image to the toaster company, and they send you a toaster that will burn that image into every piece of toast it produces.

We used an image of former Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, because we love him very much and want to elect him president of the United States regardless of what the so-called "Constitution" says. But you can use an image of yourself or a loved one. You can

also get a toaster that produces three-line text messages on toast, which, as you can imagine, is a powerful communication tool, unless you sneer cream cheese over it.

This year, give the gift that says: "I was really desperate for a gift." Give the gift of personalized toast.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



WEEKEND: DAVE BARRY HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

FROM PAGE 25



Ladybugs will soon replace cats and dogs as household pets, and you can get a jump start with a tub of 1,500 ladybugs just like this one, only much smaller.

Tubful of ladybugs

\$9.50 plus shipping and handling from amazon.com

Do you have a youngster on your holiday list who wants a pet? Then just imagine the look of joy and surprise on that child's face when he or she receives this plastic tub containing approximately 1,500 live ladybugs. Gardeners use these because ladybugs eat insect pests, but they also make wonderful pets — obedient, intelligent and fiercely loyal. More than one tragedy has been averted when a sleeping family was awakened in the middle of the night by an agitated ladybug that sensed impending danger. Granted, this danger usually involved aphids, but still. And the real beauty of giving ladybugs to children as pets is that if, God forbid, the child should step on his or her beloved ladybug companion, the child will still have a tub containing approximately 1,499 more ladybugs. It's a Tub of Love.

Facelift bra

\$30 plus shipping and handling from amazon.com (search for "Facial Lifting Bra")

— Suggested by Joe Hicks of Kyushu, Japan

This product — another scientific beauty advance from Japan



is a brassiere that you wear on your head. If we understand it correctly, it pulls your cheeks side-

ways, thereby eliminating those lines on the side of your nose and mouth that make you look like the old witch who gave the apple to Snow White. Of course, it seems to us that when you take the face bra off, the lines would come right back. But what do we know? We're just a gift guide. And that's why we recommend this product as the perfect way to send the festive holiday message: "You're looking old."



Anti-aging sauna face mask

\$59.99 plus shipping and handling from amazon.com

— Suggested by Janice Gellb of Melbourne, Australia

Have you ever noticed how youthful people look in a sauna? Neither have we. People in saunas usually look like they're about to die. Allegedly, however, saunas make your skin more youthful and beautiful. That's the thinking

behind this scientific product, which comes from Japan, so you know it's not just some kind of insane fad. The idea is, instead of sitting in a small, hideously hot room with naked Scandinavians, you simply strap on your sauna face mask, and almost immediately, thanks to science, you'll look like Hannibal Lecter. It's the perfect gift for anyone who's interested in healthy skin and robbing convenience stores.



What do you get the "Rocky" fan who has it all? There's "The Meat," part of a series of "Rocky"-themed action figures from the '70s.

'Rocky' action figure: The Meat

\$29.95 plus shipping and handling from amazon.com

— Suggested by Jon Harris of Christiansburg, Va.

Do you have a collector on your holiday gift list who's a fan of the estimated 47 Rocky movies starring Sylvester Stallone as a plucky boxer with the heart of a lion and the IQ of oatmeal? If so, we have the perfect gift item for you.

This item is part of a series of Rocky-themed action figures that came out in the '70s. Most of the figures depict human beings — Rocky, for example — but this one is different. This is a plastic replica of a side of beef.

Really. It's called, simply, "The Meat." It's inspired by the scene in the meat locker where Rocky punches and eventually defeats a large hanging sector of dead cow. Laugh if you want, but Cracked.com ranked The Meat at No. 21 on its list of the 36 Worst Action Figures.

We got ours on the Internet. The package is a little beat up, but The Meat itself looks as good as it ever did. It's accessorized by a miniature bloodstained butcher coat like the one worn by Rocky's friend Paule. Apparently you can put that on the Paule action figure, which is also available on the Internet, but at a lower price than The Meat. That has to hurt.

Doody Head game

\$17.91 plus shipping and handling from amazon.com

— Suggested by Sue Eckhardt of Gatesville, Texas

Here's a great gift for anybody on your list who enjoys competitive sports. To play Doody Head, you and your opponent strap on stylish yet functional Velcro caps, then fling Velcro doodies at each other in an effort to make them stick to the opponent's head. It is hilarious fun for literally seconds on end. Then it gets old. But those are some memorable seconds.

Tired of the same old competitive sports? Try the Doody Head game.

PHOTOS BY ROB EICHMIE, MIAMI HERALD/TNS



Instead of sitting in a hideously hot and cramped sauna, you can simply strap on this anti-aging Sauna Face Mask.

Acupuncture pig model

\$35 plus shipping and handling from www.amazon.com

A complaint we frequently hear is: "I would like to perform acupuncture on a pig, but I don't know where the darned acupuncture points are!" If that sounds like somebody you know, then we have the ideal gift for that person. This is a plastic model of a pig, with one side looking like a normal

mal pigskin-covered pig, and the other side looking like a demon zombie pig whose internal organs are on display. It's intended for use as a training aid in veterinary acupuncture, which is a real thing that we are not making up. It might sound ridiculous, but

this ancient art can do wonderful things to ease the suffering of an ailing animal and restore it to health. Then you can eat it.



Black toilet paper

\$36.99 plus shipping and handling from amazon.com

Why would you give somebody black toilet paper? To answer that question, let's quote the Amazon Product Description: "Black toilet paper will make a statement in any bathroom."

Ask yourself: Do you know anybody who would NOT want to make a statement in the bathroom? Neither do we! That's why we think you should give black toilet paper to everybody on your holiday list. It's that very special kind of gift that makes everyone say, "I can't tell whether this has been used."



Black toilet paper, perfect for making a statement in your bathroom. We're just not sure what that statement is.

Dave Barry is a humor columnist for the Miami Herald. Write to him c/o Miami Herald, One Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132.

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of hydeparkwinterwonderland.com

London 5-year-olds Isabella Hope, left, and Ida Bergsmøds marvel at snow and ice sculptures at this year's Magical Ice Kingdom, just one of the attractions at Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland. It will be open every day except Christmas through Jan. 4.

DO THIS:
Visit a Winter Wonderland

London's Hyde Park is hosting its annual seasonal spectacular, Winter Wonderland, for six weeks of glittering festivities, rides and visits from Father Christmas at Santa Land. There is no charge to enter the grounds, but tickets are required for most attractions (book early, especially for weekend visits). The Wonderland will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day except Christmas until Jan. 4.

Among the attractions at the Wonderland are: the Magical Ice Kingdom, a walk-through world of ice and snow sculptures; ice skating from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; a giant observation wheel that lets guests soar into the London sky for 360-degree views of the city; the Zippos Christmas Circus, a spectacle of performances by jugglers, clowns and aerialists; and more than 200 Bavarian-style wooden chalets glowing with fairy lights in the Christmas markets.

Find more information and book tickets at hydeparkwinterwonderland.com.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Lyon in light

Lyon, France, welcomes about 3 million tourists through Monday as it celebrates its annual Festival of Lights. Its roots trace to 1852, when floods forced the festivities surrounding the installation of a statue of the Virgin Mary to be postponed to Dec. 8. The new date saw the onslaught of a violent storm, but when the weather broke and evening fell, the residents lit their homes with candles and hurried into the streets. It's a ritual that has been repeated many times.

The spectacle today is made up of more than 70 light installations, many of which intertwine with the buildings, rivers, parks and other landmarks. Six walking routes allow visitors to take in all the sights. Video, sound and musical effects accompany the images. Fireworks are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Place Schönberg and 9 p.m. Monday from the Passerelle du Collège.

Viewing the installations is free. Note that finding accommodation at short notice might prove a challenge. Learn about the festival at fetedeslumieres.lyon.fr/en.



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Travel blog at stripes.com/travel/europe-travel



Wacky Winterville

Londoners and the city's visitors alike have yet another holiday-themed outdoor attraction to discover this festive season.

Debating in 2014 in East London's Victoria Park is Winterville, a slightly different kind of winter wonderland.

While it features many attractions one would expect at this time of year — a skating rink, horse-drawn carriage rides, Ferris wheel and market — it offers some off-the-wall activities as well.

Some of Winterville's more unusual of-

ferings include a Wall of Death, where daredevil stunts are performed on vintage motorcycles; a Spiegeltent, offering bingo, cabaret, karaoke, club nights and more; food pairings and tasting sessions; a Vaudeville/Victorian-inspired market; and the Bump Roller Disco, a family-friendly Rollerblading venue by day and the site of club nights on weekends.

A midway features rides both scary and tame, while the Kids Quarter offers a Santa's Grotto, House of Fairy tales and a mini-campsite. Food trucks will dish out tasty fare.

Winterville is open daily from 10 a.m. until late at night through Jan. 1, except on Christmas Day and Dec. 26. While entry to the park is free, tickets are required for the skating rink and certain performances. Victoria Park is easily accessible by bus or Tube. See <http://winterville.co.uk>.

Electronic music fest

Electronic music fans should brace for an all-nighter Saturday at the Toxicator festival in Mannheim, Germany. The event caters to fans of the harder styles, including hard-core, hard-style, and hard-techno.

The sixth edition of Toxicator will offer more than 30 live acts and top DJs across three floors. Headliners include Noisecontrollers, Frontliner, Korsakoff, Evil Activities, BMG, Viper XXL and others, with artists from Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden performing.



Photo courtesy of Markus Casna/EXPA Pictures

Snow Mobile in Saalbach, Austria, guarantees action in a Formula 1 atmosphere Friday through Monday.

Light, laser and video shows and pyrotechnics will create the visual backdrop.

The party starts at 8 p.m. at the Maimarkthalle and lasts until 7 the next morning. Attendees must be 16 or over. Those ages 16 and 17 must be accompanied by someone 18 or older and have parental permission on a signed form, downloadable at the event website.

Buy tickets online for 36.30 euros (about \$45.40); entry at the door costs 39 euros. Get details of the event at toxicator.de.

Snowmobile racing

Through Monday, the Austrian resort area of Saalbach Hinterglemm is throwing a party centering on a favorite stateside winter pastime: snowmobile racing.

Snow Mobile here is all about racing powerful machines. The anticipated crowd of some 20,000 traditionally consists of its fair

share of celebrities.

The action starts Saturday with qualifying rounds. Twenty-four snowmobile teams will race along an 850-meter snow-covered track running through the town of Hinterglemm. The Grand Prix final event is set for 7 p.m. Sunday.

Side events include the KTM Freestyle Motocross Show at 5 p.m. Saturday and the Red Bull Flight show at 3:15 p.m. Sunday. Adel Tawil performs in concert at 8:30 p.m. Sunday on the 03 stage at the Schwarzer Piste in Hinterglemm.

Watching the racing or Tawil in concert is free. VIP package prices reflect the event's exclusive nature, with a single day ticket costing 290 euros (about \$363) plus tax and a weekend ticket going for 660 euros plus tax. Find details at snowmobile.at.



Burlesque cabaret company Cirque du Cabaret will perform at Winterville in London on Dec. 17.

Courtesy of Winterville



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

Apocalypse — now & then

Exhibit examines portrayal of ultimate destruction through the ages

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

I'm not sure what's more frightening: a God-driven Judgment Day when creatures with human bodies and animal heads wield sickles and pitchforks as the world goes up in flames, or a ravaged landscape littered with skeletons, the casualty of man-made wars.

Both scenes are depicted in the artworks of a sobering new exhibit at the Museum Pfalzgalerie Kaiserslautern.

"Apocalypse Now! Visions of Horror and Hope in Art from the Middle Ages to Today" opened in late November and runs until Feb. 15.

The exhibit features 320 pieces of art by 80 artists, mostly from Europe, including the famous series of 15 woodcuts by the German artist Albrecht Dürer portraying scenes from the Book of Revelation.

The main medium is paper, though there are a few three-dimensional pieces, a tapestry and two videos, including one by New York multimedia artist Chris Doyle.

The common theme linking them all is the apocalypse viewed through the lenses of changing times.

Heinz Höfchen, one of the exhibit's main curators, said the intent of the assembled works was to show how the meaning of "apocalypse" and the fears associated with the word have changed — but also how they have remained the same.

From the late Middle Ages to the 19th century, apocalypse was associated with the New Testament's Book of Revelation. The word comes from the Greek *apokalypsis*, meaning revelation. Artists throughout the ages let their imaginations run free when they illustrated St. John's visions of the chaotic and destructive last days of humanity and God's final judgment.

In Dürer's "The Four Horse-



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

"The Smile of Reason," a black-and-white-photograph by German photojournalist Richard Peter Sr., was taken in 1945 in Dresden following the end of World War II. The photo is part of an exhibit about the apocalypse in art through the ages at the Museum Pfalzgalerie Kaiserslautern.

men of the Apocalypse," four horses and riders depict death, famine, war and plague. While an angel hovers overhead, they trample over people as they fall to the ground.

In the 20th century, the bearer of two world wars, the idea of apocalypse transcended religion and took on a meaning of total devastation, usually man-made.

Sketches on "The War" by German painter Otto Dix are hard to look at, but it's not easy to turn away, either. The sober-

ing scenes from World War I show men dying, dead, suffering, scared; trying to stay alive, above ground and underground.

From World War II, the exhibit includes several black-and-white photographs, including an aerial shot of a moonscape Mainz after an Allied bombing.

Included in the exhibit are six facsimiles of storyboard drawings from Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now," the 1970 American film set during the Vietnam War.

A series of watercolor lithographs by German artist Max Beckmann were painted during World War II, but they circle back to the eschatological apocalypse. He produced "Apocalypse on the Revelation of St. John the Divine" while living in exile in the Netherlands from 1941 to 1942.

The common denominator across the ages is fear, Höfchen says.

"If you have the idea of a God who punishes you if you don't do right, you get the fear of apocalypse, fear of the end of being," he said.

"Today is the fear of the bomb, or the fear of Putin," he says, a bit tongue-in-cheek. "Or (Islamic State) in Syria. I think you have it in all times."

Fear is easy to see among the works. Hope is more elusive.

In the biblical images, "hope is the idea of heavenly Jerusalem at the end of the Bible," Höfchen said.

Höfchen's hope is that after

ON THE QT

GETTING THERE

Address: Museum Pfalzgalerie Kaiserslautern, Museumsplatz 1, 67657 Kaiserslautern

TIMES

The exhibit runs through Feb. 15; open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays to Sundays; closed Mondays.

COSTS

Entrance to the exhibit is 5 euros (about \$6.35) for adults; no charge for kids and students. Families pay 10 euros.

FOOD

The Museum Pfalzgalerie is located near downtown Kaiserslautern, where restaurants and cafes abound.

INFORMATION

Telephone: (+49) (0)631 3647-201; email: info@mpk.bv-pfalz.de; website: mpk.de. No English booklet is available. Guided tours in English available on request.

— Jennifer H. Svan



A visitor looks at images from the apocalyptic figures by German painter and graphic artist Rune Mields.



Courtesy Museum Pfalzgalerie

Max Beckmann's "God Shall Wipe Away All Tears," from the apocalypse series on loan from the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, is part of the exhibit at the Museum Pfalzgalerie Kaiserslautern.

viewing the exhibit, people

"think no more war." "Even soldiers, I think, don't like war, if they are right in the head," he said.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com

WEEKEND: AFTER HOURS

Europe



PHOTOS BY ERIC A. BROWN/Stars and Stripes

At Forsthaus Rheinblick in Frauenstein, not far from Wiesbaden, a bowl of immense boiled yellow potatoes and a dressing of butter dill sauce, above, accompanied the grilled salmon with hollandaise sauce, left.

After Hours: Germany

By ERIC A. BROWN
Stars and Stripes

Nestled in a rural setting in the quaint Hessian town of Frauenstein, not far from the rumbling city streets of Wiesbaden, Forsthaus Rheinblick is a tastefully decorated restaurant with an idyllic balcony for summer dining.

Sporting more than 120 years of culinary history within its walls, Forsthaus offers an intimate dining experience, featuring a balanced mix of traditional German fare such as schnitzels and culinary flair from many of its European neighbors, which you and your companion can enjoy in a candlelit setting.

You won't find your normal appetizer menu here, but rather a showcase of what Forsthaus does well, such as its delicious potato-and-mushroom soup. My wife and I were eager to see how these two flavors would blend, since American versions are almost always served separately. We were amazed at just how good it was.

It consisted of pureed mushrooms and carrots swimming in



Forsthaus is a tastefully decorated restaurant, holding more than 120 years of culinary history within its walls. The restaurant features a large outdoor eating area in warmer months.

a creamy base. Delicately cooked potatoes were afloat in the soup, but the mushrooms retained their prominent flavor and texture. Not only was it divine on the taste buds, the presentation was spot on, with a dollop of creme fraiche on one side, soup on the other, and highlighted by a seam of crispy, homemade

croutons. Simply swirling the creme fraiche took the soup to another level.

After being so impressed with the soup, we wanted to carry on the culinary experience, so I chose the grilled salmon served with braised cucumbers in a creamy dill sauce. I would liken the sauce to a thin hollandaise, and the grilled salmon was some of the best I have had.

The braised cucumbers were even more eye-opening. The thought of braised hothouse cucumbers (the ones without seeds) didn't really appeal to me, but I was pleasantly surprised. The cucumbers were perfectly soft, hanging out in the dill hollandaise sauce and not mushy by any means. Served on the side were a bowl of boiled yellow potatoes and a dressing of butter dill sauce.

My wife chose a house specialty dish: chicken braised in local Rheingauer wine sauce with vegetables and fruit. While she was really looking forward to a juicy breast of chicken braised in wine sauce, this was completely different fare from what we expected, with small pieces



Forsthaus' house specialty dish, chicken braised in local Rheingauer wine sauce with vegetables and fruit, was completely different from what we expected, with small pieces of chicken bathing in sauce.

FORSTHAUS
RHEINBLICK

Address: Frauensteiner Strasse 117, 65199 Wiesbaden.

Times: 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday. Closed Monday.

Costs: Appetizers from 3.90 euros (about \$4.95) to 10.90 euros; main dishes are priced from 10.50 euros to 23.50 euros; desserts range from 1.50 euros to 10.50 euros.

Attire: Dressy casual. Menu: German only, but the wait staff speaks English.

Information: Telephone: (+49) (0)611 429171; website: forsthaus-rheinblick.net; email: info@forsthaus-rheinblick.net; or look up Forsthaus-Rheinblick on Facebook. Reservations are not needed for two people, but are recommended for parties of four or more.

—Eric A. Brown

of chicken bathing in the sauce. One highlight of the sauce was the addition of pears and grapes — actually her favorite of the meal. On the side, a perfectly cooked mixture of broccoli, carrots and cauliflower. The chicken dish also came with a side of fried, crispy potatoes, which had nuggets of crunchiness hugging their edges. Also a highlight was the house Rheingau dry wine, a perfect pairing to the chicken dish.

Although we were eager to try one of the desserts, such as panna cotta with mixed berries, we were too stuffed to attempt it. While a little on the high side of price, Forsthaus' chef-driven entrees are worth every penny — or euro cent.

brown.eric@stripes.com

It's easy to freeze unbaked biscuits

By KATHLEEN PURVIS
The Charlotte Observer

Q: I would like to make biscuits before my dinner party. Should I partially bake them and then freeze them, or freeze them unbaked? Or is this impossible?

A: It's not impossible at all. It's easy to freeze unbaked biscuits.

It works best with baking-powder biscuit recipes. Make the dough and cut out the biscuits, then freeze them on a baking sheet. When they're hard, remove them to a freezer bag with the air pressed out.

Don't thaw them before baking. Brush them with a little melted butter and bake at 425 degrees for about 8 minutes, until brown and warmed through.

Here's a make-ahead biscuit from Ina Garten's new book, "Make It Ahead" (Clarkson Potter, \$35).

MAKE-AHEAD SALT & PEPPER BISCUITS

Yield: 8 to 10 biscuits.

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon kosher salt
6 tablespoons (½ stick) cold unsalted butter, diced
⅔ cup cold half-and-half
1 egg beaten with 2 teaspoons half-and-half, for egg wash

Flaked sea salt, such as Maldon, and coarsely ground black pepper

Directions:

Place flour, baking powder and salt in a food processor and pulse to combine. Add the butter, breaking up the pieces as you put them in. Pulse about 10 times, until butter is the size of large peas.

Pour half-and-half down the feed tube with the processor running and pulse just until the mixture starts to come together.

Dump the dough onto a floured board and quickly knead into a ball. Roll out ½ inch thick with a floured rolling pin. Cut out with a 2½-inch plain round biscuit cutter.

If baking now: Place on a sheet pan lined with parchment paper. Brush tops with the egg wash and sprinkle with sea salt and pepper. Bake 10 to 15 minutes at 450 degrees. Cool 5 minutes. If making ahead: Cut the biscuits and refrigerate overnight, or freeze. Before baking, brush with egg wash and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Mons struts its stuff

Big plans are afoot for Belgian town's year as a European capital of culture

BY SUZANNE MORPHET

Special to Stars and Stripes

Imagine walking down a sidewalk and seeing what appear to be hundreds of books flying out of the second-story window of a university building.

Or wandering through a maze of 8,000 sunflowers.

How about taking part in a 16th-century banquet in a European chateau of the same vintage?

If you go to Mons, Belgium, next year, you'll discover all this and more as the city launches a host of events to celebrate its status as cultural capital of Europe. (Mons is one of two cultural capitals selected by members of the European Commission for 2015; the other is Plzen, Czech Republic.)

Founded on a hilltop in the seventh century, Mons boasts a stunning cathedral, a Baroque belfry and a large and lively main square.

But Mons is best known as a place scarred by war. Germans occupied the city for four years during World War I, and it was shelled heavily during World War II. Memorial tourism has been the main draw for visitors. That will change in 2015.

Mons is a city of revival, of energy." Mary Noble, deputy artistic commissioner of Mons 2015, told journalists when the year's cultural program was recently unveiled.

Here's some of what's in store for visitors.

Vincent van Gogh

Before Vincent van Gogh began to paint, he lived in the coal-mining region that's now part of the larger municipality of Mons. It was here, in the area known as the Borinage, that van Gogh gave up his dream of being a pastor to become an artist.

One of the major exhibitions of Mons 2015 is "Van Gogh in the Borinage: The Birth of an Artist." The exhibit is curated by Sjaar Van Heugten, former director of collections at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. It includes some 70 paintings from international collections, drawings and seven original letters from van Gogh. Van Heugten says no previous exhibit has examined so extensively the beginning of van Gogh's career as an artist in the Borinage.

Van Gogh set out with ideas that he remained true to for the rest of his career," he said. "It shows a remarkable mind-set and determination, and we see themes in his career that last from the first days to the very last."

The exhibit runs Jan. 25 to May 17 at the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Mons.

Film buffs won't want to miss



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE MORPHET/Special to Stars and Stripes

The main square of Mons, Belgium, is covered in cobblestones now, but come July, it will be decorated with 8,000 sunflowers in tribute to Vincent van Gogh, who spent two years in the city. It's part of a yearlong program of events marking the city's status as one of two cultural capitals of Europe for 2015. The other is Plzen, Czech Republic.



The current owner of the Marcasse mine, where Vincent van Gogh observed unfavorable working conditions, wants to put letterboxes like this one throughout the property, where copies of the artist's letters can be read or broadcast.

an exhibition (Feb. 21 to May 17 at the Frigo des Anciens Abattoirs) that recalls the 1955 shooting of "Lust for Life" by Hollywood director Vincente Minnelli and starring Kirk Douglas as van Gogh. The movie was shot in the Borinage using locals as extras.

Local historian Filip Depuydt takes guests on a fascinating two-hour walking tour (vangoghborinage.canalblog.com) of the neighborhoods where van Gogh lived and preached, and where he went underground to observe

Hornu, another former coal mine in the area, and now a UNESCO World Heritage site, that is unusual for its stunning neoclassical architecture. Some of the scenes from "Lust for Life" were shot here.

And that maze of 8,000 sunflowers in the main square in Mons? It's also a tribute to van Gogh, of course, and will be staged the last week of July.

Napoleon

Next year marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, where Napoleon was defeated, about 12 miles south of Brussels.

Napoleon's reign and legacy are fodder for two exhibitions at Mons 2015. The first, "One Number, One Destiny. At the Service of Napoleon," looks at conscription and the social and

cultural changes brought about by the French ruler (June 13-Sept. 27 at the Mons Memorial Museum). The second exhibition, "Bonaparte, Protector of the Arts," which opens Sept. 21 at Mons' Musée François Duesberg, features many works made at his imperial factories.

Art everywhere

Organizers of Mons 2015 want to surprise visitors with art spilling onto the streets. They have invited artists from around the world to make their mark on the city. Case in point: "River of Books," an installation by Spanish artist Alicia Martin. An avalanche of books cascades out a window at the University of Mons, prompting passersby to reflect on the future of knowledge in a digital age.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

KNOW & GO

Getting there

By train: About one hour, 20 minutes from Brussels; snbc.be/mons2015. By car: Mons is connected by the E19/E42 highways in Belgium, exit 24.

Accommodations

The Dream Hotel is in a renovated church in the historic heart of Mons. Large rooms with soaring ceilings, an elegant restaurant and spa all retain the charm of this historic property. Single and double bedrooms begin at 65 euros; dream-mons.be/fr

Food

Try Viline Fille, Mauvais Garçon (Naughty Girl, Bad



Stars and Stripes

Boy), a one-minute walk from the Grand Place on the Rue de Nîm. Tasty, contemporary food in a renovated 18th-century building. Open for lunch and dinner; vilinefillemauvaisgarcon.be

Information

A new tourism information site opens in the Grand-Place in Mons this month. Telephone: (+32) (0)65 39 59 39 or tickets@mons2015.eu Phone (+32) (0)65 39 59 39; website: mons2015.eu

— Suzanne Morphet



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE MORPHE/ Special to Stars and Stripes

A mural on a wall at the former Marcasse coal mine features Vincent van Gogh as both painter and pastor. The artist came to the area to be a pastor, but when the church terminated his contract after six months, he decided to become an artist. His first drawings included local coal miners.

FROM PAGE 30

Music, theater, dance

For a city of fewer than 100,000 people, Mons has a surprisingly solid reputation in the performing arts, based partly on its two annual festivals. In 2015, the VIA Festival (March 12-25) will celebrate cinema by screening, among other films, the dance-thriller "Radioscopies" and "Children of Nowhere," a documentary about a mining village in Chile that became a detention camp under dictator Augusto Pinochet.

Festival Au Carré (June 28 to July 11) will include an all-night theatrical presentation of "The

Seven Tragedies of Sophocles" and a musical theater production by Italian director Marco Martinelli featuring a 150-member choir.

Gastronomy

Mons 2015 will have something for everyone's tastes and wallets, including a 16th-century banquet, mystery meals for 200 people at secret locations and trendy canteens such as Cafe Europa, where technology and gastronomy come face to face and where prices will be "accessible and democratic," according to organizers.

Suzanne Morphet is a freelance writer who lives in Victoria, British Columbia.

Restaurant Directory

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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

WINTER ILLUMINATIONS

Japan

CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATION AT KOSAKA (Akita prefecture): Dec. 6, 13, 20 & 24, 5:30 p.m.; lights, markets of goods such as ornaments and dolls, German sausages and cookies, hot wines and beer on sale, performances and more; 30-minute ride from Owani Hirasaki I.C. on Tohoku Express; tinyurl.com/o9wzjn9.

AKASAKA SACAS ILLUMINATION 2014-2015 (Tokyo): Dec. 5-March 6, 4 p.m.-midnight; 1,670 LEDs; Akasaka Station on Chiyoda Line; 03-3746-6666.

NAKAMEGURO BLUE GROTTTO ILLUMINATION 2014 (Tokyo): Through Dec. 25, 5-9 p.m.; 400,000 LEDs along the River Meguro between Horobashi and Asahibashi; nakamegu-ro-onodokutsu.jp.

DANCE WITH TWINKLE LIGHTS AT SAITAMA SUPER ARENA 2014-2015 (Saitama prefecture): Through Feb. 15, 5 p.m.-midnight; illumination set to music; Saitama Shin Toshin Station on JR Keihin Tokaido, Utsunomiya and Takasaki Lines.

WINTER ILLUMINATION "4 SEASONS" AT TOBU ZOO

(Saitama prefecture): Through Feb. 28, 5-8 p.m., until 8:30 p.m. Dec. 23-25; illumination showing a cherry tree's changes during four seasons; 10-minute walk from Tobu Zoo Station on Tobu Seesaki Line; tinyurl.com/p44qv66.

Okinawa

AMERICAN VILLAGE MIHAMA TOWN RESORT ILLUMINATION: Through Feb. 28, 5:30 p.m.-midnight; illumination with the theme of illusion by lights and arts at this resort, 35-minute ride from Naha Airport; free.

ISHIGAKI CAVE ILLUMINATION: year-round, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; illumination of 2,132-foot cave filled with coral reefs.

South Korea

EVERLAND CHRISTMAS FANTASY: Through Dec. 31; 46,000 won adult one-day pass; Jeonseo-Everland Station (Ever Line), Exit 3.

BOSEONG GREEN TEA PLANTATION LIGHT FESTIVAL (South Jeolla province): Dec. 20-Jan. 25, 6-10 p.m.; decorated with lights, a Milky Way tunnel, theme streets and more; Bofae Dawon, Dahyanggak Pavilion Observatory;



PHOTOS BY AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

Children sing at a lighting ceremony, above, of a 21-meter Christmas tree, right, at Seoul City Hall Plaza, South Korea, on Nov. 29. To get there, take Seoul Subway Line 1, 2 to City Hall Station, exit 5. For more: tinyurl.com/wowvbu.

free; baseong.go.kr.

BUSAN PORT LIGHTING FESTIVAL: Dec. 26-Jan. 4; lights illuminate Songdo Beach near the Busan Port area and the festival also features attractions, performances and more; free; tinyurl.com/nxa5md.

For a more complete list: stripes.com/go/paclights.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life



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THE NEW SANNO

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

OFF BASE

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

CHRISTMAS ART FESTA 2014 (Tokyo): Dec. 12-20; enjoy art at 23 galleries in Ginza and Kyobashi; tinyurl.com/kyp5ji.

47 RONIN: Dec. 14; Sengakuji Temple in Tokyo celebrates the 47 Ronin who avenged their master; five-minute walk from Sengakuji Station on Toei Asakusa-Line.

FCI TOKYO INTERNATIONAL DOG SHOW 2014: Dec. 20 & 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 1,000 dogs, fashion show and more; Tokyo Big Sight East 5 & 6; 1,300 yen.

MARCHE DE NOEL (Tokyo): Through Dec. 25, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., until 10 p.m. Dec. 12-25; Christmas market featuring goods including ornaments and dolls in front of Dean & DeLuca 81 of Tokyo Midtown; tinyurl.com/m7e5e8x.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS AT SAITAMA SHINTOSHIN KEYAKI HIROBA (Saitama prefecture): Through Dec. 25, 5-8 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; goods such as ornaments, dolls and more at Keyaki Hiroba of Saitama Super Arena.

KARUIZAWA WINTER FESTIVAL (Nagano prefecture): Through Dec. 25; featuring ice skating, ice hockey, curling, live concerts, food booths, illuminations and more at Yanozaki Koen; 0267-45-8579.

ROPPOGONGI HILLS CHRISTMAS MARKET (Tokyo): Through Dec. 25, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; featuring German-style Christmas market including ornaments and more at Oiyane Plaza of Roppongi Hills; 03-6406-6000.



COURTESY NAGANO PREFECTURE/INTO

HOT DISH: Yatsugake Shin-Soba Festival, Japan

At this event in Yamanashi prefecture through Dec. 21, taste new soba — buckwheat noodles — at 34 restaurants near Mount Yatsugatake areas. For more: tinyurl.com/nyy8gun.

South Korea

"THE NUTCRACKER" BY UNIVERSAL BALLET: Seoul, Dec. 19-31; Universal Art Center, 10,000-30,000-60,000-80,000-100,000 won; tinyurl.com/3e6rwhw.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
ON BASE

Japan

ATSUGI Santa Slam 3-on-3 basketball tournament is Dec. 19 at Ranger Gym. See Shinshoji Temple & German Village Illumination on Dec. 7; Miyagase Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 14; Sagamioka Resort illumination on Dec. 20; and have Christmas dinner at Golembea Resort on Dec. 25 with ITT.

SASEBO Check out the free 3rd Annual 2K Sled Race at Nimitz Park 3:15 p.m. Dec. 6, followed by the Fun Kicks Off at 4:40 p.m.

YOKOSUKA Visit Nikko Toshogu & Tobu World Square Winter Illumination on Dec. 7; Tokyo German Village Winter Illumination on Dec. 14; Ashikaga Flower Park Winter Illumination & strawberry picking on Dec. 20; Golembea Winter Illumination with buffet on Dec. 21; and New Sanno Hotel brunch & discounted Tokyo DisneySea or Disneyland discount on Dec. 25 with Tours.

YOKOTA ITT has trips to Golembea Premium Outlet Mall on Dec. 13; "The Nutcracker" ballet noon-7 p.m. Dec. 20; and Disneyland on Dec. 25.

CAMP ZAMA Visit Miyagase Christmas Tree on Dec. 7; IKEA & Yokohama Lala Port Shopping on Dec. 21; dinner and illuminations on Dec. 25 with Outdoor

Recreation Center and Leisure Travel Service.

Guam

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE Party with Santa noon-4 p.m. Dec. 7 at 36 Wing Children's Holiday Party, Hangar 1. Take a trip to Guam Premium Outlets with Hatspat 2:30-4 p.m. Dec. 14. A Winter Ball Dance for ages 9-12 is 6-8 p.m. Dec. 20 at the Youth Center. Run the free Night Neon Dash 5K at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 30 at Arc Light Park.

Okinawa

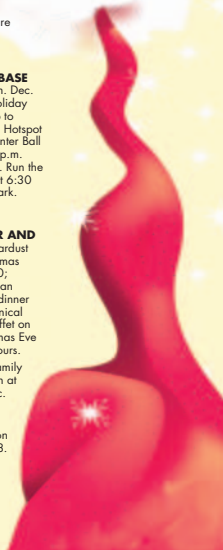
CAMPS FOSTER, KINSEY AND HANSEN Visit Kanucha Stardust Fantasy on Dec. 13; Christmas Fireworks Cruise on Dec. 20; Kariyushi Beach Resort Ocean Spa Hotel Illumination and dinner on Dec. 21; Southeast Botanical Garden Illumination and buffet on Dec. 23; and take a Christmas Eve Sunset Dinner Cruise with Tours.

CAMP FOSTER Enjoy a Family Night Christmas Celebration at Ocean Breeze 5-9 p.m. Dec. 17.

CAMP KINSEY Join in the Family Christmas Celebration at Seaside 5-9 p.m. Dec. 18.

KADENNA Dec. 19, 20 and 31, 6-10 p.m., see the Ioman Illumination Celebration with ITT.

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WEEKEND: PACIFIC

Pacific

A child in a samurai costume wages a swordfight duel with a re-enactor at Osaka Castle.



Shogun stronghold

Castle played a major role in Japan's ancient history

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

Osaka, Japan, is a modern city in every sense of the word, with towering steel-and-glass skyscrapers, young professionals sporting the latest fashions, flashing billboards and vibrant restaurants and nightclubs.

Yet there is one building that seems as out of place in its urban surroundings as it is important to Japan's cultural identity: Osaka Castle. It's a must-see destination for anyone visiting the city, a place where modern Japanese society collides with the past.

The castle offers stunning views of the city from its citadel, and its eight-story museum is a virtual time machine. It features historical items ranging from the armor of Hideyoshi Toyotomi — a powerful Japanese feudal lord, military leader and politician who had the castle built — to handwritten farewell poetry, weapons and prints that depict an epic battle.

While walking the expansive grounds, one can almost hear the armies colliding, swords and spears in hand. However, no one can stop progress. The shiny modern buildings across the street are a testament to that.

Construction began in 1583, and the castle was a marvel at the time with a soaring main tower, countless gates, turrets, two moats and stones that weighed more than 100 tons — all on grounds that today stretch over a million square meters.

Toyotomi enjoyed an opulent lifestyle and was ruthless with his enemies but is known as a great unifier in Japanese history, according to Stephen Turnbull's book "Osaka 1615: The Last Battle of the Samurai." Six years

after he built the castle, Toyotomi had conquered all of Japan, uniting warring factions under a single banner. The towering castle was a symbol of Toyotomi's power and was used as a treasury, armory and observatory.

The rule of Toyotomi changed the face of Japan forever. Not only did he bring the country together, but he also disarmed the peasants, allowing only samurai to bear arms, which solidified both the class structure and his grip on power. He put a travel ban in place and persecuted

Christians, ordering burnings at the stake and crucifixions.

However, Toyotomi wouldn't enjoy his castle for long. Following a disastrous campaign to conquer the Chinese that was fought on the Korean peninsula, he died in 1598, leaving his 5-year-old son Hideyori as heir.

Upon his death, Japan split into armed camps, Turnbull wrote, with some siding with Hideyori and others with rival Ieyasu Tokugawa.

It didn't take Tokugawa long to destroy rivals allied with the house of Toyotomi. He had pacified his young adversary through political maneuvering.

Tokugawa named himself shogun, or military dictator, and moved his administrative capital to Edo, modern-day Tokyo.

It appeared that Tokugawa planned to leave Hideyori largely alone and rich in his castle in Osaka. He surrounded Hideyori's territory with his people and joined the two houses in marriage to keep an eye on him. But the relationship between the two houses began to deteriorate quickly. It was solidified in the winter of 1614, when Tokugawa and his son



Left: Osaka Castle was the site of the last pitched battle between armies of samurai in Japanese history. It is one of the most historically significant castles in Japan.

Below: An artist's rendering of Hideyoshi Toyotomi, the powerful Japanese feudal lord under whose rule the castle was built.

PHOTOS BY
MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes



telling of the battles fought there were the first things resembling newspapers in Japan.

These battles were the first major occurrence in Japanese history to be recorded in English, Turnbull wrote. Artillery provided by European traders not only swayed the balance in the fighting, but allowed for the first long-range bombardment in Japanese history.

burke.matt@stripes.com



SOURCE: USGS TNS



A cannon greets visitors at the entrance to the castle.

Hidetada, who was now shogun, launched an attack on Hideyori at Osaka. They bombarded the castle and nearly killed him.

Peace negotiations began and ended with Hideyori agreeing to knock down walls, fill moats and submit to Tokugawa rule. He initially agreed but later reneged, leading to another war in the summer of 1615.

The fighting was brutal and the two sides were closely matched despite Hideyori being vastly outnumbered and outgunned. In the end, miscommunication led to Hideyori's defeat and Osaka Castle was burned to the ground.

Hideyori committed suicide as the castle went up in flames around him. The smoke could be seen from Kyoto, some 30 miles away.

The castle was rebuilt in 1626 by Tokugawa but was destroyed in 1665 by lightning. The people of Osaka rebuilt it in 1931, only to see it damaged again during World War II. The park became a historical site in 1948 and was repaired and opened to the public.

While the castle is one of more than 100 in the island nation, it stands in a class almost by itself due to its historical significance. It was the site of the last pitched battle between two samurai armies, according to Turnbull. Woodblock-printed broadsheets

KNOW & GO

Directions

The castle is located at 540-0002 1-1, Osakajo, Chuo-ku, Osaka City. It is accessible by subway, the JR Line, the city bus, Keihan railway and the Aquaniner.

Times

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; last admission at 4:30 p.m.

Costs

Entry is 600 yen for adults.

Food

No food or drink is allowed inside the museum. However, if the weather is nice, stands in the surrounding park generally offer food and drink.

Information

Telephone: 06-6941-3044; web site: osakacastle.net/english.

— Matthew M. Burke

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

A wild, perilous journey awaits

Himalayas provide stunning backdrop for intense, action-packed 'Far Cry 4'

By BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

"Far Cry 4" definitely delivers high adventure.

The open-world shooter is set in the towering Himalayas and is packed with intense action. If that's not enough for you, a pair of ne'er-do-wells is ready to inject your character with mystery chemicals and send him on a psychedellic shooting spree among the bad guys.

In the game from Ubisoft, you play as Ajay Ghale, a young American whose deceased mother had fled the war-torn nation of Kyrat. As the action starts, you're riding a Kyrati bus on the way to scatter mom's ashes in her homeland.

But almost immediately, trouble strikes in the form of soldiers sent by the bloodthirsty dictator Pagan Min. Within minutes, most of the bus passengers are dead and you are the houseguest of the sadistic despot, who seems to be uncomfortably familiar with both you and your mother. Fortunately, Min isn't the only one who knows you're in town. Rebels known as the Golden Path appear to help you escape. Then, your adventure begins in earnest.

Anyone who has played the game's excellent predecessor — 2012's tale of a South Pacific island occupied by evil mercenaries — will find the game's basic outline very familiar. You ally yourself with indigenous freedom fighters to drive out the bad guys. This involves capturing their bases, hacking their communication towers and generally undermining their efforts across a sprawling map. And along the way, you'll meet unusual characters, hunt vicious animals and help the natives with all sorts of problems.

However, there's also quite a bit that's new and improved.

Overall grade: **A-**

The Himalayan setting is the most obvious departure from previous games in the series. You'll see different people, animals and architecture. You'll also see a different landscape — one that's absolutely breathtaking, especially if you're playing on a new-generation console. From the lush river valleys to the snow-capped peaks, the texture and detail lavished on the settings is impressive. At times, I found myself taking a break from my freedom-fighting just so I could drink in the view.

Developers also offer plenty of game-play innovations.

My favorite addition is elephants. You can ride them. You can stomp your enemies with them. They're awesome.

Other new features include mountaineering gear that allows you to climb to lofty spots and a nifty little copter that can eliminate quite a few long treks through the forest. You also can invite friends to enter your game to fight as hired guns.

Ubisoft also has boosted two of the elements that gamers enjoyed in the South Pacific adventure: outpost attacks and wing suits.

You can now fight to recapture bases that you've already captured. That might sound repetitive and downright pointless to the uninitiated. However, one of the most challenging and fun activities in the game is assaulting enemy outposts. It's always a bit disappointing when you're expelled your enemies from their final base. Now you don't have to worry about that because you can initiate a base-attack challenge whenever you like.

As for the wing suit, you can now buy it early on instead of waiting until late in the game, which means that you can spend a lot more time gliding like a bird over Kyrat's impressive landscape.

The game also gives you a few more options that affect how the story unfolds. For example, the two leaders of the Golden Path occasionally offer opposing



Photos courtesy of Ubisoft

In "Far Cry 4," players find themselves in Kyrat, a breathtaking, perilous and wild region of the Himalayas struggling under the regime of a despotic self-appointed king. Using a vast array of weapons, vehicles and animals, players will write their own story across an exotic open-world landscape.

missions — such as burning an opium plantation or capturing it so proceeds can be used to fund the rebellion. You will need to choose which leader's mission to support, which gives that person an edge in their internal power struggle. Such choices play a role throughout the storyline, and the game's ultimate outcome hinges on your decisions.

The game offers a wide range of missions. The most complex are woven into the storyline and involve the struggle against Min and his cronies, the tensions within the Golden Path and Ajay's efforts to learn about his parents. They lead to interactions with Min's top lieutenants, a crusty CIA agent and a pair of disreputable British stoners — the guys who are eager to test their mystery chemicals on you. There are also some mystical trips to Shangri-La, where you'll fight demons with the help of a tiger. These missions are generally well constructed and quite entertaining, though a few get a bit tedious and others are a bit weird.

The game also offers an incredible number of side quests. In addition to capturing outposts and large fortresses, you can take quick assignments to deliver cargo, free hostages, hunt animals and fight against waves of attackers in an arena.

Although there are many different kinds of activities, they can feel a bit repetitive if you don't mix them up and throw in some missions from the storyline.

Throughout all of this, the core of the game remains

fighting bad guys. Min's thugs range from regular soldiers to armor-clad commandos to Molotov-wielding crazies to super stealthy hunters. In combination, they represent a challenging force. You quickly learn that a sneak attack is usually the best option. Openly assaulting anything more than a small patrol can prove deadly.

Min's goons aren't Kyrat's only dangerous creatures. Wolves, bears, tigers and honey badgers pop up to present problems — and opportunities. While you will have to tangle with a few wild critters, you can also turn them into temporary allies. If you see a human enemy and happen to have some meat in your backpack, you can toss the bait toward your foe and attract a predator to his location. Some of the wild animals can easily take out two or three of Min's minions and improve your odds in a firefight.

This fall has brought an abundance of good open-world games. While the Himalayan adventure in "Far Cry 4" might not be perched on the peak, it's definitely worth a visit.

Bottom line: "Far Cry 4" delivers exciting action in an incredibly beautiful location.

Platforms: Xbox One, Xbox 360, PlayStation 4, PS3, PC

Rating: The game earns its mature rating for violence, blood, drug use, profanity and a few topless women.

Online: far-cry4.ubi.com



WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS



AC/DC

"Rock or Bust" (Columbia Records)

In 1980, AC/DC's very existence was at stake: singer Bon Scott died just as the band was starting to get big. They used the uncertainty and grief to dig down deep, and the result was one of the greatest albums in rock history, "Back In Black."

In 2014, AC/DC is once again in turmoil: founding rhythm guitarist Malcolm Young had to leave the band due to dementia, and drummer Phil Rudd recently saw charges that he hired a hit man to kill someone dropped, but still faces serious legal matters. And once again, the band has come up big, with "Rock or Bust."

The album is based on lead guitarist Angus Young's butt-shaking, foot-stomping guitar riffs, elegant in their simplicity and their ability to burn themselves into your brain. The title track, and the first single, "Play Ball," are perfect examples of this.

"Miss Adventure" adds a "nah nah nah" chant to a bouncy blues beat in the same way that chants benefited their previous hit "Thunderstruck." And "Emission Control" is one of the all-time great song title double entendres.

But the happiest surprise here is the re-emergence of Brian Johnson's voice. During the '90s and early 2000s, you could literally hear it crumble before your ears, seeming to get weaker with each new album. Whether it has re-energized during the time off since the band's tour wrapped in 2010, or is just miked and processed better, it sounds strong and vibrant again — an essential element of the classic AC/DC sound.

— Wayne Parry
The Associated Press



'Mr. Worldwide'

Pitbull's latest release continues global push

By LORRAINE ALI
Los Angeles Times

Like a bright yellow Hummer in a sea of gray Priuses, there's nothing subtle about Pitbull.

Propelled by raw talent and a whole lot of moxie, the former reggaeton artist has emerged as one of the most successful crossover stars around — selling more than 5 million albums and 60 million singles worldwide — despite a seemingly bottomless collection of shiny dress shirts and bad suits.

His eighth album, "Globalization," continues the Cuban American rapper's successful formula of mixing salsa with hip-hop, hip-hop with EDM, EDM with pop, and all of it with a cocky sense of humor and some of the worst pickup lines ever.

"She on the rebound, broke up with her ex, I'm like Rodman, ready on deck," he raps on his new album, one of many tracks on "Globalization" that demonstrate Pitbull will do just about anything to get with you (and widen his fan base).

It's working. The self-proclaimed "Mr. Worldwide" (it's catchier than his given name, Armando Christian Perez) is everywhere: working with JLo and Keshia, hosting the American Music Awards and co-writing and performing the recent World Cup anthem.

If there's an outlet where the Miami-based Pitbull hasn't been yet, he will be there soon. That means co-hosting and performing on "The View" and — hide the kids — dropping a tune in Dream-Works' "Penguins of Madagascar."

So why all the love for a guy who seems so unlovable?

He surrounds himself with teams of hit-making producers (Max Martin had his hands in "Globalization") but makes the sound his own with Latin influences and his own gruff energy. The result is club anthems like "Fireball," his third single off the new album. It's one of many Pitbull songs that are so over-the-top catchy they dare you not to dance, be it at that cheesy club your friend dragged you to or alone and behind closed doors, far from the judgmental gaze of your Radio-head-loving peers.

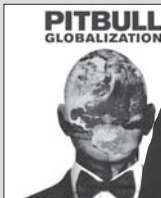
On "Globalization" — not to be confused with his previous worldly-themed efforts "Global Warming: Meltedown" and "Planet Pit" — Pitbull includes more club-minded songs and a wide cast of characters. For "Ah Leke," he teams up with everyone's favorite sidekick, Sean Paul, on an infectious, dance hall-meets-EDM number that finds Pitbull once again offering himself up via a 2 a.m. bar-is-closing mantra: "All the ladies, when you're ready let me know."

Chris Brown joins Pitbull for "Fun," a more straight-ahead upbeat R&B dance tune fueled by Latin beats and instrumentation. It's the closest to like this where a crack production team and insane energy levels pay off, making what could sound

tired and familiar (how many times can we hear Brown's voice against sappy slow jams) sharp and lively.

Though tempos shift and guests add up (Jason Derulo, Ne-Yo), every song is connected by the rapper's gravelly voice, so-stupid-they're-great lyrics and banshee howls.

Let anyone be left out, there's something here for the kids too in this otherwise booty-laden fare. "Celebrate" is



Pitbull

"Globalization" (RCA)

Pitbull's bouncy

"Penguins of Madagascar" theme, based on Rare Earth's "I Just Want to Celebrate." Sure, it's OK, but can a zebra dance to it? It's no "I Like to Move It."

Songs like "Sexy Beaches" and "Day Drinking" are the weakest. But they will be played by vacationers worldwide thanks to universal idiot-in-paradise refrains such as "Day drinkin', sun goes up and drink goes down, ooh, ooh." And that World Cup Anthem, "We Are One (Ole Ola)," is as lame as the day it was performed in Brazil.

There are 11 songs in all, not as many as you'd think from someone as prolific as Pitbull, but when you figure he's out there on a billion more tracks by himself and other artists, does he really need to pack his own album with his A1 work?

Besides, he's likely holding onto his best mojito-slugging material for the next round, waiting for some other club artist to disappoint so he can catch you on the rebound.



RCA Records

WEEKEND: MOVIES

A 'Wild' ride

Following her successful memoir, author wants to try a screenplay

The Associated Press

When she hiked more than 1,000 miles through California and Oregon wilderness, Cheryl Strayed didn't expect to end up in Hollywood.

The author of "Wild," whose memoir was made into a new film starring Reese Witherspoon, hadn't planned to write about her three-month solo trip on the Pacific Crest Trail. When she finally did years later (at her husband's urging), she sent the manuscript to Witherspoon's camp, knowing the actress was looking for complex female characters to bring to the screen through her new production company. Still, Strayed was stunned when the Oscar winner called.

"This was before the book was released," Strayed said; before it became an Oprah Book Club pick and a New York Times best seller.

Since then, the 46-year-old writer has been on a Hollywood adventure — one that has inspired profound gratitude and piqued her interest in writing her own screenplay.

Handing her memoir over to Hollywood was scary, she said. "But I do find that if you take

risks, that often the best things come from being brave in that way, from making yourself vulnerable," she said. "So I just trusted that."

She also trusted Witherspoon, with whom she's become friends and who invited Strayed's in-

volvement in nearly every aspect of the film. The author consulted on costumes, locations, the hiking experience and intimate details about her personal life.

Witherspoon plays Strayed, a young woman who escapes to the wilderness to end a self-destructive bender that began with her mother's premature death. Her marriage crumbles as she turns to drugs and promiscuity to numb the pain. Desperation with a glimmer of dignity drives her into nature — an inexperienced hiker determined to trek one of the toughest trails in the country.

Witherspoon says the memoir is "one of the most important books I've ever read in my life." She was deeply moved by Strayed's story and grateful for the author's support in making the movie.

"She sort of relinquished control and gave us this wonderful story to tell," Witherspoon said.

"And being an artist herself, she was so open to having us interpret her words, to make it cinematic, which was incredibly freeing and really the greatest

For Witherspoon, the book offered "resolution." For Strayed, the hike, and her reflection on it, fostered a sense of redemption. It's a story about "bearing the unbearable," she said.

art does: It reminds us that we are more alike than different and that our common humanity connects us really profoundly."

Serving as “the ambassador for ‘Wild’”—first for the book, then for the movie—has kept Strayed from her regular writ-

"Wild" stars Reese Witherspoon as Cheryl Strayed (above right with the actress), who sets out on a thousand-mile journey in the wake of personal tragedy.

FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES/AF

ing routine. But she has "big plans for 2015" that includes more books, and maybe even a screenplay.

"I was absolutely informed by the experience I went through with 'Wild' because I was so involved in the making of the movie on every level, and it was a great education," she said. "It gave me confidence... I know how to make a story, and I can make it work in this form. So it's kind of exciting to me."



New on base

"The Pyramid" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunssum.

Pacific

Misawa, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: pyramidthemovie.com

A review of "The Pyramid" was not available at press time.

A team of U.S. archaeologists gets more than they bargained for when they discover a lost pyramid in Egypt in "The Pyramid."

DIDIER BAVEREL/20th Century Fox



ROADWAY KINO
MAGIC
Digital SD
Ramen-SD (Landstuhl)
For Reservations & Information call 06371-917037
Next to Autobahn A6, Exit 12 (Landstuhl)
Movie: **THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES**, Weinbach
6 THEATRES, THX, DTS, all Digital Sound
Website submit kmc
www.broadwaykino.com/kmc
THUR DEC 04 - WED DEC 05
In Digital SD: **Behnig6 PG-13 Sat & Sun 13:30**
16:30, Mon & Tue 18:00, Wed 18:45
The Battle of the five Armies (PG13)
Wed 00:01, 16:30, 18:00
18:45
2D: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies
Mon & Tue 15:15, 17:00, 18:00
Sat & Sun 17:00, Mon & Tue 18:00
In 2D: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies
Mon & Tue 15:15, 17:00, 18:00
18:45
Padrington (PG-13) Thur 16:00, 18:15
18:45, Fri 16:00, 18:00, Sat 13:30
15:45, 18:00, 20:00, Sun 13:30, 15:15
16:45, 20:30, Mon & Tue 18:00, 18:15
18:45, Wed 18:45
2D: Penguins From Madagascar
(PG-13) Thur 16:00, Fri 15:45, Sun 15:15
16:45, Mon & Tue 18:00
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay 1
(PG-13) Thur 16:00, 18:00, 20:30, Fri 15:45
16:45, Sat 13:30, 15:15, Sun 13:30, 15:15
16:45, 20:30, Mon & Tue 18:00, 18:15
18:45, Wed 18:45, Thur 16:00, 18:00
Sat 12:00, Sun 12:00, Mon & Tue 18:45
The Hobbit:
The Battle of the Five Armies 2D & 3D
Mon & Tue 15:15, 17:00, 18:00, 18:45

Check movie listings for base theaters at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Character evolution a constant for writer

Patricia Cornwell discusses 'Flesh and Blood,' work and inspirations

BY SARAH BRYAN MILLER
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Author Patricia Cornwell has come a long way since her days as a crime reporter for the *Charlottesville Observer* and a computer analyst at the chief medical examiner's office in Richmond, Va.

She's published more than 30 books; 22 of them focus on her forensic scientist/crime-solving protagonist, Dr. Kay Scarpetta.

Cornwell discussed her latest book, "Flesh and Blood," and her work and

inspirations, in a telephone interview. How do you approach each new book?

I begin each of these stories to create an experience for people, an adventure. It goes beyond just the written words on the page. Part of my mission is to go out and do things that

give me such a tactile experience, a physical one, so that if I'm describing a scene — whether it's Scarpetta out on a mile-long firing range in the miserable heat of New Jersey in the summer, whether it's scuba diving a shipwreck almost a hundred feet on the bottom of the ocean in the Bermuda Triangle — whatever it is, I want the reader to feel they are doing this, to make it that vivid for them. I want people to have a little bit of a roller coaster ride.

How do you stay ahead of your readers?

I go out and do research, look for new and different ways to pose crime problems that Scarpetta is going to turn over. What can I do at the crime scene, what can I do to fool her? There's an answer that is couched in the world of science. If she does her homework, she's going to have a moment when she goes, "Oh, my God, now



Patricia Cornwell is the author of the Kay Scarpetta series. In "Flesh and Blood," the 22nd Scarpetta novel, the master forensic sleuth finds herself in the unsettling pursuit of a serial sniper.

PATRICK ECCLESING/HarperCollins

I see how this happened.' For ("Flesh and Blood"), I found a new technology in firearms that a lot of people don't know about yet. I did a lot of scuba diving around shipwrecks, because I have a big finale that has to do with that.

You've switched styles over the years, from first person to third person and back to first, and between present tense and past tense. Is that about making the reader feel like she's really there?

Yes, it is. I went with first person in the early days. Then for a while I ex-

perimented with the third person point of view, because I really feel that when you switch perspectives, it's a little more like a movie. But I found that my fans were not happy with that. They really like to be in Scarpetta's head.

So for the last four, five years, I've been back to telling the stories from her point of view. I like to use present tense, because, again, I want it to be the same kind of experience as when you turn on a beloved television series. You lose yourself instantly in the drama; you feel that it's

happening as you're watching it.

Has the character developed over the years?

Scarpetta's changed a lot over the years. She debuted in 1990, and obviously we don't live on that same planet anymore. I don't even know what planet that was.

The things that threaten our stability, our security, our happiness, are very different than they were in the 1990s. We didn't have 9/11. We weren't constantly preoccupied with our government spying on us, and a war that never ends. It seems like a very idyllic life, compared to what we have today. So, obviously, Scarpetta is not going to be the same person. She's affected by these changes the same way you and I are. ...

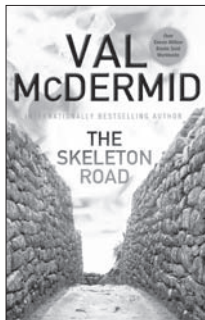
We know that she is an expert in the science of death, but I also want to know her feelings about the art of life. What does she think about when she gets up in the morning? What does she think about people who are really dead, of the afterlife? There are so many things that we all think about constantly. And so I give her a chance to be reflective in a way that I didn't so much in the early ones. She's definitely more malleable, a little more mellow, and most of all she's more flexible than she was in the early days of the series.

A few years ago I interviewed P.D. James. She mentioned how difficult it is, as science and technology continue to improve, to write a good traditional detective novel. Is that a problem for you, given your genre?

No, because I'm such a student of it. That's always been my stock in trade, forensic science and medicine. It's always been what I'm known for.

However, I completely understand, because these days you have to say something about certain tests that would be done, or what the labs would say. If you don't, your readers will. They'll go, "But if they'd used the scanning electron microscope, they would have known that it was iron, not aluminum, that was left in the bottom of that glass!" People now are armchair experts with it. I think that does put demands on writers.

For me, it's more about balancing the science with the characters and the world they occupy. I try to keep them extremely approachable and interesting. The science itself is not as interesting as it used to be, because we're flooded with it, on television in particular. People watch this all the time now, including autopsies. When I talk about an autopsy table, I assume they know what it looks like.



‘Skeleton Road’: A complicated tale of war

BY OLIVE H. COGDILL
The Associated Press

Author Val McDermid melds the political thriller with the police procedural for an intense novel that gives equal attention to each genre.

McDermid pulls together a complicated tale of war and its aftermath for a plot that feels both intensely personal and global. "The Skeleton Road" moves at a brisk pace, giving attention to each of its myriad characters as the action moves from Scotland to England to Croatia.

Detective Chief Inspector Karen Pirie with the Historic Cases Unit — Scotland's official name for the cold case unit — is called to a decaying Victorian building where a demolition crew has found a skeleton. The site is a favorite of free climbers who use these old buildings as their personal urban mountains. But this skeleton, which has been hidden for nearly eight years, has a bullet hole in its head. Karen and her team link the skeleton to Dimitar "Mitja" Petrovic, a general in the Croatian army who emigrated to England following the Balkan conflict. There, he

lived with Oxford University professor Maggie Blake, who met him when she worked as an academic in Dubrovnik during the war. Maggie has never gotten over Mitja, who she believes left her more than eight years ago to return home.

"Skeleton Road" gracefully moves from Karen's investigation to Maggie's life and her memories of the war and Mitja. Meanwhile, two members of an international war crimes tribunal also are seeking Mitja as they try to find who is meting out "rough justice" by killing people accused of war atrocities before

they can be indicted.

Without being overly graphic, "Skeleton Road" depicts the horrors of the Serb-Croat war during the 1990s, including both genocide and personal betrayal. Maggie's war memories, which she channeled into a highly praised book, delve into the personal cost of war while exhibiting the effects on a nation.

Karen, introduced in McDermid's "A Darker Domain," once again proves herself a formidable character worthy of her own series. Karen's personal and professional life adds texture to "The Skeleton Road."

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“The Hundred-Foot Journey”: An Indian family launches a restaurant across the street from a popular French restaurant. Helen Mirren stars. Director Lasse Hallström has put together his latest cinematic dish as a tasty three-course meal that only slows between the main course and dessert. Hallström blends romance and cooking to create a sweet tale of love that’s 50 shades of gravy. It’s the rare case where both sides are justified in their personal and culinary opinions. That makes it easy to root for them to find a way to come together. Most of the film is predictable, but that’s like looking at a menu and ordering items you’ve had many times before. The familiar can be just as good if presented the right way. When Mirren is involved, characters are elevated to the highest quality.

“Dawn of the Planet of the Apes”: This updated tale of how apes surpass man as the dominant species has plenty of big battle sequences. But it also gives equal time to personal issues like respect, loyalty and family. The combination makes “Dawn” a solid pick.

Also new:
“The Hero of Color City”: Crayon box transforms into a colorful world.

“Jingle All the Way 2”: Two dads compete to make this the best Christmas ever.

“The Strain: Season 1”: Mysterious virus is unleashed. Teen cadets must defend the Shenandoah Valley during the Civil War.

“The Dark Matter of Love”: Documentary follows three children from Russia and the family that adopted them.

“The Simpsons: Season 17”: “WWE Fit Series: Stephanie McMahon”: WWE mogul and mother helps viewers achieve the physique of the WWE Divas.

“San Francisco Giants World Series Collector’s Edition”: Follows the winning efforts of the Giants in the World Series.
“Resurrecting Richard III”: Scientists look at the king’s physical condition.

“Tales from the Crypt”/“Vault of Horror”: Includes horror films.

“To the Woods”: Bernadette Peters stars in this film version of the stage production.
“Extant”: First season of the Halle Berry science fiction series.
“Robin Williams Remembered: A Pioneers of Television Special”: One-hour look at the comedian’s life and work.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



From wire services

Clockwise from top left: “The Sopranos: The Complete Series”; “Sherlock: The Complete Seasons 1-3”; “Downton Abbey — Seasons 1-4”; and “The Roosevelts: An Intimate History” are available for purchase — just in time for the holiday season.

It’s a wrap!

TV shows on home video a good gift idea

BY FRAZIER MOORE/The Associated Press

Are you worried there will be nothing to look at once the holiday decorations come down? Here, in no particular order, is a list of home-video goodies to fill the gap. They might not fit so well in loved ones’ stockings, but they’ll look just great on a video screen.

“Batman: The Complete Television Series”: In the later films, Batman was the Dark Knight. “I’m the Bright Knight,” says Adam West, who starred as Batman (alongside Burt Ward as Robin) in this campy, cartoonish romp that aired for three seasons on ABC in the early 1960s. The set includes all 120 episodes completely remastered and featuring guest stars including Julie Newmar, Vincent Price and Bruce Lee in its first-ever home video release.
“Hill Street Blues: The Complete Series”: Before “Mad Men” and “Breaking Bad,” before “The Sopranos” and “Lost,” before any viewer dreamed of a new Golden Age of TV Drama, the seeds were planted and blossomed as “Hill Street Blues.” Boasting serial narratives, tragicomic tales and a brilliant ensemble, it aired from 1981-87, reaping 26 Emmys and paving the way for the great dramas we’ve been watching ever since. Now all 144 episodes are available in a 34-DVD set telling the full saga of a racially torn, crime-ridden precinct of an urban metropolis

“Downton Abbey — Seasons 1-4”: The perfect warm-up for Season 5 of this grand soap opera returning to the air in January. Follow the Crawley family and their servants from pre-war England through the storms of World War I and into the social upheaval of England in the 1920s with the lavish episodes — a dozen discs’ worth.

“The Jeffersons: The Complete Series, Dee-luxe Edition”: This was the sitcom story of the American Dream, as lived by George Jefferson, a dry-cleaning magnate who moved on up from humble Queens beginnings to a dee-luxe apartment in the Manhattan sky.

Starring Sherman Hemsley and Isabel Sanford as his take-no-guff wife, it aired for 11 seasons from 1975-85. Here are all 253 episodes in 33 DVDs. You want that on a hanger?

“The Roosevelts: An Intimate History”: In its seven parts and 14 hours, Ken Burns’ triple profile spans a century from Theodore Roosevelt’s birth in 1858 through the life of Franklin Delano Roosevelt to the passing of his widow, Eleanor, in 1962, at age 78. Not only are these three lives intertwined but also, as Burns’ magnificent portrayal demonstrates, they are inseparable from the history of the early 1900s.

“Sherlock: The Complete Seasons 1-3”: This is the much-acclaimed contemporary Sherlock, with Benedict Cumberbatch as the timeless sleuth and Martin Freeman as his Watson in all three seasons in a 14-disc set. This limited-edition collection also includes bonus video content and commemorative busts of Watson and Holmes.

“The Sopranos: The Complete Series”: The full series, all six seasons, all 86 episodes, are now available in Blu-ray in 28 discs. Savor this slice of family life, including the final black-out that “Sopranos” fans still argue about — now in Blu-ray fidelity!

“Pee-wee’s Playhouse: The Complete Series”: This was always a show too cool and delightfully subversive for the kids it was nominally created for. With perhaps the best portrait of unfettered boyhood since Tom Sawyer, Paul Reubens is back in all 45 “Playhouse” episodes, plus “Pee-wee’s Playhouse Christmas Special,” remastered in hi-def. Mecka-lecka, a mecka-hiney ho!

Beyond the box set

When shopping for the movie lover on your list, why not think outside the box (set)? While DVD or Blu-ray box sets can still make great gifts, here are some other things to consider for your favorite cinephile this season.

Commemorative books: The next best thing to a motion picture might be a collection of still pictures inside one of these new image-filled film books: With an introduction by Martin Scorsese, “Cecil B. DeMille: The Art of the Hollywood Epic” tells the history of film through DeMille’s work. Peek behind the scenes with set shots, film stills and personal recollections by one of the authors, DeMille’s granddaughter, Cecilia DeMille Presley (from Running Press, \$60).

New Zealand-based Weta celebrates its 20th anniversary with a two-volume hardcover set. “Weta Digital: 20 Years of Imagination on Screen” explores the special-effects company’s digital work in films such as “Avatar,” “The Lord of the Rings” and “The Hobbit.” “Weta Workshop: Celebrating 20 Years of Creativity” showcases costumes, creatures and other creations by the company’s conceptual design and manufacturing studio (from Harper Design, \$100).

Projector gadget: Turn your cellphone into a mobile movie house with the simple-yet-genius Smartphone Projector. Made of cardboard and glass, this affordable gadget requires no outside power source to magnify and project a smartphone screen (uncommongoods.com/projector/smartphone-projector, \$27).

Fun stuff: Kids of all ages love toys. If fans of Transformers, superheroes or Star Wars movies are on your list, consider wrapping up Optimus Prime, an Iron Man figurine or a miniature Millennium Falcon for their bookcase or toy box (tashco.com). Superhero fans might also appreciate the happy nostalgia of adult-sized Underoos (hottopic.com/hottopic/Brands/Underoos).

Goodie bag: It’s easy to make a sweet gift for a film fan: Fill a popcorn tub with classic movie candy and top it with movie tickets.

Inside the box: If it must be a box set, consider the 10-disc “Stanley Kubrick: The Masterpiece Collection.” It includes a hardcover book of film archive photos, two new documentaries about Kubrick, and eight of his films: “Dr. Strangelove,” “2001: A Space Odyssey,” “A Clockwork Orange,” “Barry Lyndon,” “The Shining,” “Full Metal Jacket” and “Eyes Wide Shut.”

— Sandy Cohen
The Associated Press



DREAMWORKS/AP

Om Puri, Manish Dayal and Helen Mirren star in the DVD release “The Hundred-Foot Journey.”

THE KANSAS CITY STAR
TNS

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Rick Ross offers healthy living tips

Rapper credits CrossFit workouts and diet for 100-pound weight loss

By JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
The Associated Press

Rick Ross had two seizures in a single day, sending him to the hospital three years ago. Health didn't concern the 300-pound rapper then, but he's shed nearly 100 pounds in the past seven months by eating healthier foods and embracing a high-intensity workout plan.

Ross, 37, says he continues to work long hours creating music, including his seventh album, "Hood Billionaire," released last month. It's the second album Ross has put out this year after the March release of "Mastermind," which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 albums chart.

But in the middle of making music and running his Maybach Music Group record label, Ross has made his health a main priority.

And now, he believes if he can drop pounds, you can, too. In an interview with The Associated Press, the Grammy-nominated rap star offered tips on how to lose weight.

No soda on the side

Ross has given up a few things since changing his lifestyle.

First, the rapper stopped drinking soda, unless it's diet. He also said it's better to eat heavier meals earlier in the day. As a result, he said he's able to burn calories faster.

"I used to eat big meals at 2 a.m. and base it on my schedule," he said. "But I don't do that no more."

Ross said you should drink water throughout the day. He also said to treat yourself when you work hard.

"I just went to Prime 112 (in Miami) the other night, and I had some fried Oreos and fried velvet cake," he said. "I treated myself.

You wake up in the morning, you might regret it. But you got to get back to work."

Every day he's hustling

Ross credits a CrossFit program introduced to him by Reebok last year — calling it "Ross Fit" — with helping him lose weight.

It's a highly active workout plan where Ross completes a series of exercises within a 20-minute span, including pushups, sit-ups, boxing, squat jumps and Olympic-style weightlifting.

"CrossFit overall is more of an intense workout," he said. "So instead of doing 20 minutes on the treadmill, you'll (do) a 20-minute CrossFit workout and you'll be not only building

your endurance, but also muscle simultaneously."

Ross said the number of people who work out with him has grown from four to 20, including hitmaker DJ Khaled and producer E-40.

Enduring a tough workout isn't foreign to Ross, who played offensive line at Albany State University in Georgia.



Rapper Rick Ross has lost nearly 100 pounds in the past seven months through healthy eating and high-intensity exercise including CrossFit workouts.

VICTORIA WILL, INVISION/AP

Winning with wings

Ross stopped eating certain foods such as bread, white rice and fish fillets, and began drinking less alcohol. But he hasn't eliminated one of his favorite foods: lemon pepper wings.

The rapper, who owns nine Wingstop franchises around the country, said he stops by the

restaurant at least twice a week when he's in town. He's trying to keep a good balance, though, by eating foods like branzino and fruits such as pears.

"I'm not under no stress of what I'm eating," he said. "There are no restrictions. I'm not trying to make a particular weight. I'm just working out and doing what's best for Rozay."

Exercises to develop broad shoulders

By EDDIE ALVAREZ
Miami Herald

What's the best exercise to build broad shoulders?

Few muscle groups impact your strength and appearance the way broad shoulders do. Your deltoids, or shoulder muscles, are used in most pushing movements, making them an important muscle for upper body strength. For men, broad shoulders project an image of strength and masculinity. For a woman, broad shoulders make the waist and hips appear smaller.

There are three main muscles in the

shoulders: anterior deltoid (the front part of your shoulders), medial deltoid (the middle part of your shoulders) and posterior deltoid (the back part of your shoulders). Just like on any muscle, you need to use low weight and high repetitions to build a base of strength, then over time add weight to make the shoulders grow bigger, wider, broader and stronger.

Best exercise for shoulders? The overhead press is a classic compound movement and it effectively targets all three shoulder muscles. Overhead presses can be done with a barbell or dumbbells. While the overhead press can be performed standing or seated, standing

is generally easier on your back because you can use your legs as natural shock absorbers.

Start by holding the weight at about shoulder height, with your elbows directly under your hands. Push the weight overhead until it is at arm's length. Fully extend your arms, but don't hold your elbows locked out.

Repeat the movement for three sets of 10 repetitions, adding a little weight as you feel comfortable.

Other good exercises for shoulders: side lateral raises to focus on the medial deltoids and rear dumbbell raises to focus on the posterior deltoids.

The overhead press — which can be done with a barbell or dumbbells — effectively targets the three main muscles in the shoulders.

FOTOLIA/TNS



WEEKEND: FAMILY



FOTOLIA/TNS

Rethink motives, budget when buying kids' holiday gifts

By RICHARD ASA
Chicago Tribune

Hold up your hands and wave the white flag. Any argument about the holidays being too commercial is over, considering that lighted trees were in some store windows even before summer is officially over.

Still, the trend toward Hallomkasmas doesn't have to cross the threshold to your home and affect your kids. Specifically, parents don't have to let three months of marketing bombs force them into guilt and buying their kids mountains of presents.

"I have seen many parents over the years who struggle with guilt about what they don't give their child, and they overdo the holiday presents in some less-than-conscious attempt to battle back their guilt," says Gail Saltz, author and professor of psychiatry at the New York Presbyterian Hospital Weill-Cornell School of Medicine.

"Along the same lines are parents who feel that success for them means showering their kids with toys to reassure themselves they can afford it, or do something their own parents could not, or to feel they are great parents," she adds.

Saltz says because many of these behaviors aren't conscious, parents have trouble stepping back to see they aren't doing their children any favors.

To combat this subliminal urge, set your limit ahead of time, says Katie Herrick Bugbee, global parenting expert at are.com and a mother of three. One example: Two presents from Santa, one big one from mom and dad. Then, she says, divvy up your child's wish list among relatives. This will all help keep impulse shopping in check.

Bugbee adds "enough is enough" when kids "start looking at the holidays as a chance to just accumulate stuff." At that point, the underlying symbolism of a holiday — both spiritual and secular — has been lost.

The best gifts, agrees Wendy Midlemis, associate professor, department of education at the University of North Texas in Denton, are those

Curbing the holiday spending frenzy

The Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood, a nonprofit organization based in Boston, has a downloadable guide to help adults curb the gift-giving appetite at a dinner and still get dessert. Advice, much of it adapted from the CCCF:

1. Emphasize the non-gift giving portions of the holidays. Homemade cookies, anyone?
2. Instead of giving your children only toys, give some gifts that are experiential, including the promise of spending time together on a project.
3. Read stories about the origins of the holidays you celebrate.
4. Limit kids' exposure to commercial media.
5. Have talks well in advance to shift children's focus away from getting gifts to other aspects of the holidays — decorating the tree, attending seasonal concerts, spending time with relatives.
6. Emphasize the importance of helping others.

that retain that connection to the underlying meaning of any holiday: compassion for others.

"Talking to our children about gifts and the meaning of them provides the opportunity to sit and think," she says. "Can you give a grandparent coupons for ice cream and then make times to go together?"

"When we encourage our children to think about gifts such as these, ones that are very special to the receiver and help build a sense of caring and togetherness, we give the gift of thoughtfulness. You can't easily find that boxed in the local toy store."

But it's not necessarily parents who overbuy. For grandparents who think their role is a competitive sport, the holidays offer a prime opportunity to show who's uber by showering the kids with gifts, says Ruth Nemzoff, author and resident scholar at the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass.

Although parents "can make suggestions and express their philosophy, they cannot dictate what the

grandparents give," Nemzoff says. "Grandparents, on the other hand, are wise to follow the parents' suggestions."

If the grandparents feel strongly about giving extra generously, however, Nemzoff says they can have it both ways by contributing to a college fund — which in turn can lead to conversations between the generations about financial budgeting.

Seana Turner, a professional organizer from Darien, Conn., can offer eyewitness testimony on what holiday gift-giving gone mad can do.

"I'm often called into spaces that are (inundated) with children's toys," Turner says. "Children are often overwhelmed by their own toys. They only assess those that are their favorites or 'in front.' When asked if they want to give something away, they say no, but when a parent does the shedding on their behalf, they almost never miss the items that have been given away."

"Toys and gifts are meant to bring joy, but they seem to bring stress and self-nomination (in the parents), which is a shame."

SPOUSE CALLS

E-book series examines the critical WWII years

Book and magazine editor Jeff Nilsson describes an America ambivalent about entering another war in a region historically averse to peace; citizens are worried about high unemployment and potential attacks on their homeland; Congress can't agree on immigration policy that balances national interest with compassion.

Sounds like today's news, but Nilsson, historian and archive director for The Saturday Evening Post, is talking about the America of 1939.

"There are some interesting parallels seventy-five years later in 2014," he said.

Double-digit unemployment was a concern in 1939. European war refugees and immigrants from Central and South America were an issue, and Americans were fearful of German attacks on U.S. soil.

"It was very much on their minds whether we would be bombed or invaded," said Nilsson, the editor of a new e-book series called "Over There, Over Here: A Retrospective of WWII." The series will reveal the era as it was reported in The Saturday Evening Post and include links to articles from the magazine's digital archive. The first volume, "Writers at War," is now available, with three more volumes coming in 2015.

Nilsson said the 75th anniversary of the start of WWII and the centennial of WWI is a good time to look back and realize that Americans of the time weren't convinced they should fight another war in Europe. In 1939, most Americans were unwilling to be involved, he said. After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Americans understood the war in the Pacific.

"They knew that we were attacked," he said, "but the war in Europe, why are we fighting that, and do we really need to fight that?" Adolf Hitler's ambitions and atrocities were yet to be revealed. The loss of Americans in Europe during WWI were still fresh, and Europe was a region known for conflict, Nilsson explained, much like the Middle East today.

"Americans were certainly disappointed by the First World War. They had not expected that we would actually impose a lasting peace in Europe, which was unprecedented in history."

Nilsson, whose father was a career soldier and WWII veteran of Guadalcanal, said an understanding of the military's role is important to understanding past and present conflicts.

"If you don't know how you got here, you don't know where you are," he said. "Our military tends to be folded and put away when we don't need it and not really thought about."

The complete "Over Here, Over There" series will cover the homeland, the war front and the political front during WWII. "Writers at War," the first volume, includes wartime fiction contributed to The Saturday Evening Post by contemporary writers like J.D. Salinger and William Faulkner. These well-known voices helped Americans put the war in human context, Nilsson said.

"Think about Americans coming to terms with terrorism today through television, the number of dramas looking at it this way and that way," he explained. "In 1939 and '40, there were no dramas on [the] radio addressing the war, but it was very much in people's minds."

In contrast to today's continuous coverage, radio news in 1939 was usually 15 minutes each evening, giving the big picture without much detail or human interest.

"That was left to print, major newspapers or magazines like The Saturday Evening Post," he said. "Literary authors were able to put a more human slant on this."

Nilsson said the electronic form of the books allows readers to have immediate access — via live links — to the Post articles referenced in the books, as well as to entire issues in the magazine's archive.

"You're seeing what people saw back in the war years, viewing their world the way they would view it every week," he said.

With the perspective of history, modern Americans might think WWII was universally accepted and understood in its time, but Nilsson emphasized that's not reality. Life and war were just as uncertain then as now.

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at astripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

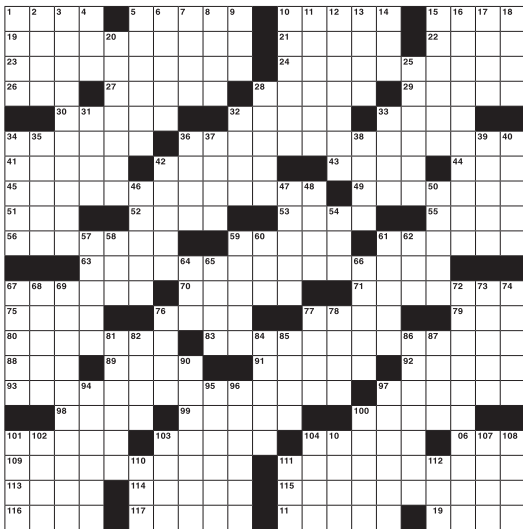
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

ZAP!

BY MATT GINSBERG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
- 1 Interjects
- 5 Pass off
- 10 Pianist Schumann, early champion of Brahms
- 15 Certain servers
- 19 Focused on one's fellow fraternity members?
- 21 Egyptian war god
- 22 Fast break?
- 23 Workers in booths
- 24 Dublin dance?
- 26 Pooh's baby friend
- 27 King Abdullah, e.g.
- 28 Like a desert climate
- 29 Like circus tumblers
- 30 What may come with a trophy
- 32 "Shut up!"
- 33 Like the Head Start program, for short
- 34 African file r
- 36 What Clark Kent needs to become Superman?
- 41 Response to a gotcha
- 42 One-named chanteuse
- 43 Dry
- 44 Julius Wilbrand invention of 1863, for short
- 45 Somewhat bashful?
- 49 Article of papal attire
- 51 ___ spot
- 52 Red alert source?
- 53 Uncommon cry after a lottery drawing
- 55 Oscar winner who was formerly a regular on TV's "Laugh-in"
- 56 Fine-wool sources
- 59 Firing offense?
- 61 Polish capital
- 63 Local afternoon newscast?
- 67 Sentence ender, maybe
- 70 Execs
- 71 Eggs-to-be
- 75 Subject of a Fox hunt
- 76 Excel function
- 77 "I'm F4-freezing!"
- 79 ___Locks, Fla.
- 80 Show, as cards in gin rummy
- 83 Business offering the right to buy and sell securities?
- 88 Carrier to Tokyo
- 89 End of an era?
- 91 Ill
- 92 Textile patented in 1894
- 93 How to find what a creep is looking at?
- 97 Become fond of
- 98 Ones bowled over?
- 99 What Microsoft Word's Track Changes shows
- 100 Flowering tropical plant
- 101 Spartacus, at one time
- 103 Itsy-bitsy
- 104 Northern passage
- 106 Chain letters?
- 109 Says, "I didn't do it!" before fessing up?
- 111 Clarifies
- 113 Fibula : leg :: "Laugh-in" : arm
- 114 Taken
- 115 Cigarettes or booze?
- 116 Conclude in court
- 117 Where Indiana Jones reunites with Marion
- 118 Overly involved
- 119 Paul who composed the "Tonight Show" theme
- DOWN
- 1 "This guy walks into ..."
- 2 Fictional villain whose given name is Julius S
- 3 "Wrong way"
- 4 Prefix with masochist c
- 5 One may be grand
- 6 Perfectly timed
- 7 Fingered
- 8 Golfer ___ Pak
- 9 Some OT enders
- 10 Mao adversary
- 11 Country singer Morgan
- 12 Blue bloods, informally
- 13 "A.S.A.P.:"
- 14 Bit of air pollution
- 15 Digicam component
- 16 "Well, fine"
- 17 Washington attraction
- 18 English glam-rock band with six 'n' hits
- 20 Essential, in a way
- 25 Armored, as a horse
- 28 Asian capital known as the City of Lakes
- 31 Astronaut's woe, perhaps
- 32 Sleeper and others
- 33 Father
- 34 When D.S.T. starts or ends
- 35 Burn a little
- 36 Refuse at a polling station
- 37 Old Hollywood's Code
- 38 Leaves in a waiting room?
- 39 Flaky?
- 40 British guns
- 42 Climax of many an action film
- 46 Hot-pot spot
- 47 Pieces in the game Othello
- 48 Certain Endorian
- 50 Flamboyant
- 54 Connections
- 57 Poker resignation
- 58 Bubkes
- 59 O'Connor successor
- 60 Bilg e
- 61 "Butterfly" actress, 1982
- 62 ___ cit. (footnote abbr.)
- 64 Mexican bear



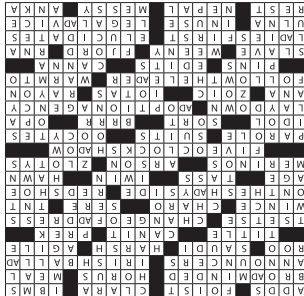
- 65 Band-Aid competitor
- 66 Orchestra section
- 67 Rice ___
- 68 Hersey novel local e
- 69 Major annoyances
- 72 Finger whose "I Get Ideas" was on the charts for 30 weeks
- 73 Its icon is Spaceship Earth
- 74 Decline
- 76 Pique activity?
- 77 Quick snack
- 78 Sound of approval
- 81 Some oxygen molecules
- 82 Bowls over
- 84 High fidelity?
- 85 Ugly ones
- 86 Pop's pop
- 87 Make
- 90 "Things aren't so bad"
- 94 Occupy
- 95 Ancient Macedonian capital
- 96 Stonehenge feature
- 97 With caution
- 100 Chewed stimulants
- 101 Potential libel
- 102 Scoop (out)
- 103 With 105-Down, some amorphous
- 104 Scoot
- 105 See 103-Down
- 107 Head turner
- 108 Between ports
- 110 Cod piece
- 111 West ___ (upscale furniture store)
- 112 Actress Gardner

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



Veteran operator Pike Logan and partner Jennifer Cabill learn that their latest actions have gotten them fired, despite having saved thousands of innocent lives. But their shock and fury are cut short when a terrorist organization starts targeting military relatives — and taking them hostage.

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FACES

Bond film gets retro name: 'SPECTRE'

By JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

James Bond is back, in a new film with a retro title that evokes the series' past. The next 007 adventure will be called "SPECTRE," the dastardly fictional terrorist organization featured in "Dr. No" and other early Bond films.

Director Sam Mendes announced the name of the 24th official Bond movie Thursday at Pinewood Studios near London, along with the identity of several new cast members and a new version of Bond's iconic Aston Martin car.

Academy Award-winning Austrian actor Christoph Waltz and professional wrestling star David Bautista are joining the cast, while Andrew Scott — master criminal Moriarty in the BBC series "Sherlock" — will play an M16 officer. Monica Bellucci and Lea Seydoux are the new Bond girls, Lucia Sciarra and Madeleine Swann.

Mendes, who directed the last Bond installment, "Skyfall," said the movie would have "everything you would expect from a Bond movie," with "a little more variety ... maybe a little more mischief."

"SPECTRE" will be Daniel Craig's fourth film as the suave spy. Returning cast members include Ralph Fiennes as spy chief M; Ben Whishaw as gadget-master Q; and Naomi Harris as secretary Miss Moneypenny.

Producers said the next film centers on "a cryptic message from Bond's past (that) sends him on a trail to

uncover a sinister organization."

SPECTRE — Special Executive for Counterintelligence, Terrorism, Revenge and Extortion — was the terrorist organization headed by Ernst Blofeld that featured in several early Bond films.

Waltz said his character is called Oberhauser — but fans hope he is really Blofeld, one of the most enduring Bond villains. The cat-stroking evildoer, played by actors including Donald Pleasence and Charles Gray, hasn't appeared for several decades because of a legal dispute over rights to the character. The case was settled last year.

Mendes also revealed that Bond will drive an Aston Martin DB10, replacing the vintage DB5 destroyed in "Skyfall."

Initial fan reaction to the details was enthusiastic. "For Bond fans, this is the best Christmas present — the return of James Bond and classic elements of the series with yet another classic title coined by Ian Fleming," said Ajay Chowdhury of the James Bond International Fan Club. "SPECTRE" is due for release late next year.

Daniel Craig poses for photographers at the announcement for the new Bond film, at Pinewood Studios in London on Thursday.

JOEL RYAN, INVISION/AP

Chris Rock speaks out about essay, NY grand jury decision

From wire reports

At the premiere of his new film, "Top Five," Chris Rock addressed the controversy surrounding his recent essay in The Hollywood Reporter.

The 49-year-old star doesn't see it as a courageous act; rather he was stating the facts about being black in the entertainment industry. In the essay, Rock questions how a "liberal town" like Hollywood is also "kind of racist" when it comes to hiring practices and diversity. He called Hollywood: "A white industry. Just as the NBA is a black industry."

Rock told The Associated Press on Wednesday night he was merely speaking from the heart. "I don't look at it as even being political. I'm just stating the facts. I'm not trying to be political at all; that's (Jon) Stewart, that's (Bill) Maher; that's, you know, not me," Rock said.

Rock also reacted to Wednesday's grand jury decision in New York not to indict a white police officer in the chokehold death of a black Staten Island man last summer. That altercation was captured on video with the suspect screaming, "I can't breathe."

"It's sad when something is on videotape. It's sad," Rock said.

Report says Americans streaming more TV

Americans are turning away from live TV on the tube and tuning in to streaming services, a Nielsen report says.

That's bad news for cable and satellite TV providers. Americans are increasingly watching TV shows and movies on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon streaming and other services. CBS and HBO have announced standalone streaming services as well.

About 45 percent of Americans stream television shows at least once a month, according to research firm eMarketer. That number is expected to increase to 53 percent or 175 million people by 2018, it says.

According to the Nielsen report, which came out Wednesday, the average daily time spent watching live TV fell 12 minutes in the third quarter to four hours and 32 minutes. That means it dropped nearly 4 percent to 141 hours per month. Meanwhile, time spent watching streaming services jumped 60 percent to

nearly 11 hours each month.

That's still a small amount compared with live TV, but it is growing quickly. "Content is still king, but consumers are shaping their own content-discovery experience, and the evolving media landscape has not lessened consumer demand for quality, professionally produced content," Donna Turrill, senior vice president of insights at Nielsen, said in a statement. "What has changed is the number and reliability of new media available to viewers."

'Frozen' short film headed to theaters

"Frozen" favorites Anna, Elsa and Olaf are headed back to the big screen in a new short film.

Walt Disney Animation Studios announced Wednesday it plans to show "Frozen Fever" in front of the live-action "Cinderella" that opens in theaters March 13.

The short reunites the Oscar-winning directing team from "Frozen." Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck. It will tell the story of Elsa and Kristoff's attempt to plan a birthday party for Anna.

"Frozen" is the fifth-highest grossing film of all time.

AC/DC drummer scuffles with witness

Troubled AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd was detained by police after getting into a scuffle with a witness in his pending court case but was released again without facing further charges.

Rudd's lawyer Paul Mabey said Rudd appeared in court Thursday accused of breaching his bail conditions by associating with a witness. Mabey said it was a "chance meeting" and Rudd was released again on bail with no new charges.

Last month, police charged the 60-year-old drummer with threatening to kill, which comes with a maximum prison sentence of seven years, as well as possessing methamphetamine and marijuana. He has pleaded not guilty.

Columbus Coffee cafe owner Leo Rojas said Thursday that he witnessed Rudd curse and try to punch a larger man on the sidewalk outside the cafe.

Other news

■ Promoter Live Nation announced U2's "INNOCENCE +

eXPERIENCE" tour on Wednesday. Tickets go on sale on Dec. 8. The tour swings through North America next summer before heading to Europe in September 2015.

■ A Seattle-area medical examiner says actress Misty Upham, known for her roles in "August: Osage County" and "Django Unchained," died of blunt-force injuries to her head and torso. The King County medical examiner's office updated its investigation of the Oct. 5 death Wednesday, but the manner of death is still undetermined. The 32-year-old actress died in the Seattle suburb of Auburn.

■ Jimmy Fallon and his wife, Nancy, have welcomed their second child. A representative for the host of "The Tonight Show" said Frances Cole Fallon was born at 8:45 a.m. Wednesday, weighing 5 pounds, 11 ounces.

■ After some sensitive prodding from radio host Howard Stern, Lady Gaga, now 28, said on his show Tuesday that she had been raped by a record producer 20 years her senior when she was 19 years old. She was explaining the inspiration for her song "Swine."

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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com
 Sam Amrhein, Managing Editor International
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com
 Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
 croley.tina@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
 moores.sean@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com

EUROPE STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Teddie Weyr, Europe & Mideast Chief
 weyrteddie@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9310 cell
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific

Paul Alexander, Pacific Bureau Chief
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3 6855.5377; cell (080)583.1673
 DSN (313)225.5377

Washington

Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com
 (+1)202761.0908, DSN (312)763.0908
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Amanda Trypanis, Design Desk Supervisor
 trypanis.amanda@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202 761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: (+1)202 761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

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OPINION

Republicans see Carter as ally at DOD

By ELI LAKE AND JOSHUA ROGIN
 Bloomberg News

With President Barack Obama's expected nomination of Ashton Carter to be his next secretary of defense, many Republicans see a potential ally inside the Pentagon.

The former deputy of the department is a technocrat, a master of the byzantine process of defense acquisitions and a man who has won high marks for his management skills inside the U.S. government's largest bureaucracy.

But Carter also has a hawkish side. He has been a public advocate for modernizing the U.S. nuclear arsenal, a step opposed by the more dovish side of the arms-control community. When Carter was an academic, before the Obama presidency, he took a hard line on Iran, arguing that the United States should use diplomacy and other kinds of coercion to end the country's enrichment of nuclear fuel. He even advocated for a pre-emptive strike on North Korea's missiles. During his tenure as deputy secretary of defense, from 2011 to 2013, he was one of the strongest opponents in government of the mandatory defense budget cuts known as sequestration.

Sen. John McCain, the next chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, told us that he and Carter had similar views on a number of issues. "Working together, if you're not having to fight the Pentagon, if you've got the leader actively working towards the same goal, that's immensely helpful," McCain said.

McCain said he expected to work closely with Carter on issues that aren't micro-managed by the White House, such as reforming the process by which the Pentagon develops and purchases weapons and cutting the Pentagon's bloated civilian bureaucracy. "Where the White House has taken a policy lead, such as the negotiations with Iran or the war in Syria, McCain predicted that even if he did cooperate with Carter, it would not make much of a difference. "He's not going to have a

‘[Carter] is not going to be allowed to speak out freely, or he will end up where his predecessors ended up, on the ash heap of history.’

Thomas Donnelly
 defense policy expert
 at the American Enterprise Institute

say in it," McCain said. "I certainly could work with him — on Iran and Syria — but I guarantee that he would not have any influence on those decisions."

To be sure, not all conservatives are as upbeat on the prospect of an Ashton Carter Pentagon. Thomas Donnelly, a defense policy expert at the American Enterprise Institute, said Carter doesn't have the gravitas of his predecessors such as Robert Gates, Leon Panetta or even Chuck Hagel, who has won for making public remarks at odds with White House policy. "He's not exactly a guy with all the political skills in the world," Donnelly said. "He's a prickly personality; he's not the world's greatest communicator. He makes Chuck Hagel look like Winston Churchill."

In the end, Donnelly said, even if congressional Republicans made an alliance with Carter on policy issues against the White House, it would not be worth all that much. "I don't think having an alliance with Ash Carter is a bad thing, it just doesn't add that much," he said. "He is not going to be allowed to speak out freely, or he will end up where his predecessors ended up, on the ash heap of history."

Some of Carter's former colleagues in government disputed this characterization. Kurt Campbell, who served in Obama's first term as assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific, said he predicts

Carter "will be an ambitious secretary of defense and he will insist on setting his own agenda." Campbell added that Carter will "work closely with the White House but he will want a degree of independence and maneuver room to deal with these extremely challenging issues."

Past stances are also not always a guarantee of future positions for high-level appointees. When Hagel was nominated to replace Panetta at the Pentagon, he was touted by the White House for his opposition to the Iraq War. Yet, once inside the administration, Hagel became one of the strongest advocates for a more aggressive policy in Iraq and Syria following the rise of the Islamic State in those two countries.

One of the most challenging issues for Carter will be to work with the military's most senior generals at a moment when the White House has asked them to fight a new war in Syria and Iraq even as the Pentagon has been forced to make across-the-board cuts to its budget.

"I'm very pleased with the selection of Ash Carter," one Republican senior congressional staff member on defense issues said. "He knows how to get stuff done and he's going to know that Obama can't fire him. He's going to be good because Ash Carter is not a guy who will push back on the generals."

That staffer also pointed to Carter's commitment to modernize the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal. As the deputy secretary of defense, for example, Carter once had the president's helicopter, Marine One, land at the mall entrance at the Pentagon in order to inspect the president's secure communications and to make sure they would work in the event of a nuclear war, the staffer said.

Joe Cirincione, president of the Ploughshares Fund, which opposes increased spending on the U.S. nuclear arsenal, said Carter "inherits plans for spending \$1 trillion on new nuclear weapons over the next 30 years but not the money to pay for them. He doesn't want to off the contracts, but he can't afford them either."

30 years on, Bhopal still cries out for answers

By RAVI KUMAR

The march of time can be cruel. As months and years go by it erodes even the most horrifying events until they are dulled of their searing poignancy.

Even one of the worst industrial disasters of our time fades from the world's consciousness after decades have gone by. Thirty years ago, on the night of Dec. 2, 1984, the city of Bhopal, India, was forever identified with catastrophic tragedy. A toxic gas leak from a Union Carbide India Ltd. plant in the center of the city claimed the lives of thousands of people virtually overnight. Half a million people were exposed to contaminated water and air. The news and images of thousands of men, women, children and babies left dead on the ground, having tried to escape the gas, shocked the world.

Three decades later, the attention has gone. But the effects of that horrific day — and the lack of accountability — remain. Upward of 22,000 people have died as a result of the leak, but the people of Bhopal continue to suffer from health problems, and the land and water are still contaminated.

The ruins of the plant still stand and are still poisoning the city. But no one will accept responsibility for the cleanup. Seven former employees of the Indian subsidiary of Union Carbide were found guilty of death by negligence, but U.S.-based Union Carbide Corp. — a majority owner of the

UCIL plant — refused to respond to criminal charges and has been declared an "absconder from justice" by a court in India. Dow Chemical acquired Union Carbide in 2001, but has refused to ensure that Union Carbide responds to multiple judicial summons from Bhopal courts to answer for the disaster.

Bhopal was no mere accident. It was the result of a series of avoidable consequences due to cutting corners, exploiting an untrained and desperately poor workforce, and ignoring all warning signs that could have avoided calamity. And someone must answer.

It was this outrage at the lack of justice that prompted me to make the film "Bhopal: A Prayer for Rain," which was released in the U.S. last month. The scars of that terrible day remain. There are those who still walk the narrow streets with canes after the toxic gas devastated their eyes. Children continue to be born with birth defects, something local activists attribute to the effects of drinking water contaminated by chemicals left at the site. The site of the plant itself is rusting and overgrown, but still seeping poison.

When we visited Bhopal for filming, we attempted to get some footage at the ruined site. Workers' helmets still sat on tables where they were left. Weathered safety signs are still affixed to the walls as silent ironic witnesses. And the smell of cyanide still remains. Our crews could not stay long because of it.

Dow's stubborn refusal to admit any kind of responsibility for Union Carbide over this matter is baffling. Though Dow Chemical was not responsible for the leak itself, it is now 100 percent owner of Union Carbide and must therefore answer its obligations. From a public relations perspective, significant goodwill could be won by investing in the cleanup and in the health and education infrastructure of Bhopal.

Instead, Dow has used the promise of significant future investment to lure the people of Bhopal to believe that they demand to stop all legal action against the company in India. Its Indian subsidiary has used peaceful demonstrators and taken out restraining orders against protesters.

Those are not the actions of a responsible corporation. We will keep telling the stories of the victims and survivors and keep working with organizations like Amnesty International, who are currently encouraging members to support survivors by writing to Dow as part of their annual "Write for Rights" campaign, until Dow and Union Carbide step up and finally give the people of Bhopal the resolution and reparation they deserve. We must not allow the march of time to dull the urgency. Bhopal was not merely a tragedy of the 20th century. It is a human rights travesty today.

Ravi Kumar is a director whose film, "Bhopal: A Prayer for Rain," was released in the U.S. last month. He wrote this in partnership with Amnesty International USA.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Garner decision defies belief
Newsday

What happened Wednesday is incomprehensible.

A Staten Island, N.Y., grand jury voted not to bring criminal charges against NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo, who threw his arm around Eric Garner's neck last summer in what looked much like a departmentally prohibited chokehold.

Garner cried again and again, "I can't breathe." Then he was dead.

The disturbing viral video shot by a bystander was an emotional gut punch. It was, and still is, difficult to watch. Video can mislead, of course. But what we thought we saw was bluntly buttressed by New York City's medical examiner, who said Garner's death was a homicide resulting from the chokehold and the compression of his chest by police officers.

And now we're back where we were last week in Ferguson, Mo., back where we never really left, with a grand jury's inaction reverberating profoundly and volubly across the country. And with questions we have been unable to answer — about our nation's troubled racial history, about the distrust that exists between minorities and police departments, and about why some of us are not treated equally under the law.

Garner was black. Pantaleo is white. Ferguson victim Michael Brown was black; then-police officer Darren Wilson, who was not indicted by a St. Louis County grand jury, is white.

But the two cases are different. In Ferguson, conflicting testimony and evidence made it impossible to decipher what transpired, and whether Wilson should have felt threatened by Brown.

Garner, on the other hand, did not pose a lethal threat to anyone. He was resisting arrest on suspicion of selling "loosies" — individual cigarettes — a very minor allegation. ...

We've made great progress over the years, but the past has a long and haunting reach. America's race problem has taken a serious turn for the worse. It's time that we honestly confront it.

Aim high on limiting smoking
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

There is plenty of good news in the latest statistics on smoking released last week by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but that doesn't mean Americans cannot and should not do better.

The proportion of adults who smoke was 18.8 percent in 2013, the lowest level since the 1964 ground-breaking surgeon general's report, the first loud alarm about the deadly effects of cigarettes. Smoking's popularity has fallen by more than half since 1965, when 52 percent of men and 34 percent of women were regular cigarette smokers, compared with last year's rate of 20.5 percent among men and 15.3 percent among women.

The results of the National Health Interview Survey, an in-person report compiled each year, found other positive developments in 2013. People who still smoke are, on average, 10 years older than in 1965. Researchers said they lit up every day, last year, that was true of 76.9 percent of smokers. The daily users also puffed on fewer cigarettes per day — 14.2 versus 16.7 in 2005. ...

Americans, even with significant declines over the long term, are probably puffing too much to be able to cut the proportion of smokers to 12 percent of adults



SUSAN WALSH/AP

John P. Elwood, attorney for Anthony Douglas Elonis, who claimed he was just kidding when he posted graphically violent rap lyrics on Facebook about killing his estranged wife, shooting a kindergarten class and attacking an FBI agent, speaks outside the Supreme Court on Monday. The justices are considering whether violent and threatening rap lyrics posted on Facebook deserve protection under the First Amendment.

by 2020, a goal set by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Attaining that low threshold will require a double-barreled approach — lots of smokers will have to give up the habit and a concerted effort will have to be made to stop young people from picking it up.

Encouraging English is enough
Los Angeles Times

The terms "American" and "U.S. citizen" are used interchangeably, but it is widely understood that there is more to being an American than possessing citizenship. The late Harvard political scientist Samuel Huntington noted approvingly in his 2004 book "Who Are We?" that, historically, immigrants to this country became Americans by "adopting America's Anglo-Protestant culture and political values."

Few would quarrel with the notion that being an American entails acceptance of "political values" such as representative government, free speech and the preservation of the rights of minorities. As President Barack Obama said in his second inaugural address, Americans are bound together not by "the colors of our skin or the tenets of our faith or the origins of our names," but rather by the "self-evident" truths of the Declaration of Independence.

Far more controversial is the notion that there is a cultural component of being an American. Sometimes it is asserted that a real American must profess the Christian (or Judeo-Christian) faith. More common is the idea that one cannot be a true American unless one speaks English. Huntington called the English language "central to American identity."

In a country in which 1 out of every 5 residents speaks a foreign language at home, that assertion will strike many as offensive or just wrong. The same is true of perennial efforts in Congress to declare English the official national language. The latest iteration of that proposal is the English Language Unity Act sponsored by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa.

Yet one can oppose such legislation — and we do — and still be troubled that so many immigrants don't speak or understand English well. According to the Census Bureau's 2012 American Community Survey, nearly 10 million working-age U.S. adults — 19.2 million people between the ages of 16 and 64 — is considered "limited English proficient."

That's disturbing, but not because it represents a dilution of "Anglo-Protestant culture." Our concerns are different ones. First, we believe that a common language is an important unifying force in a country that is diverse in so many other ways. Sec-

ond, now and for the near future, a mastery of English will be important for full political participation and economic advancement in the United States.

English is, and ought to be, the language of government, even in communities in which large numbers of people have a different first language. ...

It's true that under the federal Voting Rights Act, U.S. citizens in many areas have access to ballots in languages other than English (a provision that the King bill apparently would not repeal). Given the importance of the right to vote, such an accommodation is essential. But the language of national political debate is and will remain English. Even with the best of intentions, voters who lack English skills will be hampered in their ability to participate fully in the democratic process. ...

So what should be done?

The answer is not to pass legislation declaring English the official national language. Nor is the solution to increase the difficulty of the current requirement that immigrants seeking naturalization demonstrate some familiarity with English. ...

Instead, we advocate a more positive approach to encourage immigrants to become proficient in English. It would include bilingual education programs for schoolchildren designed to foster, not postpone, acquisition of English skills, along with a significant expansion of programs for adults. ... Such an effort would also help its beneficiaries to be better citizens.

Freedom to be un-'like'-able
The Washington Post

When the government prosecutes someone for using heated language on Facebook? The Supreme Court heard arguments Monday on where it should draw the line between protected speech and "true threats" that even the First Amendment does not protect.

The speech in question, from petitioner Anthony Douglas Elonis' Facebook page, ranges from puerile to despicable, and it includes descriptions of the hypothetical murder of his estranged wife. She was so concerned that she obtained a protective order against her husband, who nevertheless continued to taunt her electronically. Elonis' words and behavior were beyond contempt; his wife is the sympathetic figure in this story. Unfortunately, a ruling that gives Elonis what many would see as his just deserts might also end up being used to discourage speech that deserves protection. The justices must be careful.

The government argues that it can lock up someone like Elonis as long as it convinces a jury that a reasonable person

would construe his words to be a serious threat. Elonis' attorneys and a spate of free-speech advocates, including the newspapers' trade association, counter that the legality of someone's speech should not be left to such a weak and vague standard. Instead, they argue, the government should have to prove that he intended his words to be received as a threat. Some of the justices discussed a middle ground Monday, suggesting the government should have to prove that Elonis was reckless in his disregard for how threatening his words would likely sound. ...

Freedom of speech is the most cherished of American rights, zealously protected by legal rules that give wide berth to expressions of nastiness, pettiness, anger and frustration — and to descriptions of gruesomeness, violence and horror — in order to steer far clear of crushing legitimate speech that might be disfavored by politicians, misunderstood by judges or unpopular in a particular community. Yet the government opposes even having to show recklessness on the part of a speaker in order to imprison him.

"That's not the kind of standard that we typically use in the First Amendment," Justice Elena Kagan said Monday. "We typically say that the First Amendment requires a kind of buffer zone to ensure that even stuff that is wrongful might be permitted because we don't want to chill innocent behavior."

The court must keep that principle in mind — not for Elonis' sake but for the sake of those who might stop speaking out of fear that a prosecutor and jury somewhere will disapprove of what they have to say.

Europe grumbles over Google
San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News

There is a war going on in Europe that could have a significant impact on the U.S. and its economy.

No, we're not talking about Vladimir Putin's expansionist forays into Crimea and Ukraine, although that's a nasty business. More worrisome is what seems to be Europe's war against American tech companies — especially Google. ...

On Nov. 27, members of the European Parliament overwhelmingly voted to take the first steps toward a breakup of Google in Europe. This was pushed by its two largest economies, Germany and France. It is likely to be the first of many actions against what the French refer to as "les Gafa," referring to Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon.

We get it. Europe has long grumbled that Google has 68 percent of the market of Web searches in America and more than 90 percent in many European countries. The numbers are similar with the other three.

With U.S. firms' enormous reach, they pay relatively little in corporate income taxes and slip beyond the reach of some of the European national regulators. ...

The most serious claim is that Google's search intentionally downgrades competitors, making it impossible for others to reach scale. This places the burden on Google to show that it does not engage in anti-competitive practices. However, you have to wonder whether the inability of European entrepreneurs to swiftly innovate and compete has something to do with Europe's heavily regulated business environment — the anti-Silicon Valley, you might say.

There is one European concern we definitely share, however: user privacy. Critics have called on Google and Facebook to further limit the use of personal data they claim, without an "opt-in" policy for gathering information rather than the current "opt-out." We've been saying this for years. ...

So we cheer on the European Union as it attacks on the privacy front, and hope Google can neutralize the anti-competitive claim, without the debunking it or changing some policies.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teen gets stuck in chimney, calls 911

AZ SCOTTSDALE — Firefighters spent an hour rescuing a scared Arizona teenager from a chimney where he got stuck after getting locked out of his home.

Firefighters from Scottsdale, Phoenix and Tempe fire departments were ultimately able to pull the 13-year-old boy to safety from inside the home Tuesday night.

The boy, whose name was not released, had tied an extension cord to a vent to climb down the chimney but he got stuck inside. Realizing he was trapped, he called 911.

Authorities later released a recording, with personal information redacted.

At one point, the boy said he couldn't believe he'd gotten stuck in the chimney.

"Yeah, it's going to be an interesting story to tell your friends," the operator responded.

Woman claims rings in Salvation Army kettle

SD SIOUX FALLS — A South Dakota woman has claimed the engagement ring and wedding band found in a Salvation Army red kettle.

Katie Christie, of Sioux Falls, was reunited with her lost jewelry Wednesday after the Salvation Army put out an alert Tuesday looking for the owner of the rings.

Christie took off the rings to apply hand lotion. She said she put them in her coin purse, but forgot they were there when she dumped change into the kettle.

Student told to unclog toilet with bare hands

WA OTHELLO — A Washington state teacher acknowledged ordering an 8-year-old student to unclog a toilet with his bare hands, and the boy's parents say the educator deserves more than a reprimand.

Artie and Lisa Adams told KEPR-TV that they learned of the Nov. 6 incident at Scooney Springs Elementary School when they asked their son about his day at school.

The third-grader said he reported the clog and teacher Brent Taylor told him to clear it with his bare hands.

The parents complained. The principal reprimanded Taylor and ordered the 23-year teaching veteran to review a hygiene course.

Man accused of posing as Army vet investigated

PA LEVITTOWN — Police said they are investigating whether a man accused of falsely posing as a U.S. Army ranger while shopping at a suburban Philadelphia mall broke the law.

Middletown Police Chief Joseph Bartorilla said Tuesday that the man didn't ask for a military discount at a shoe store he was exiting when a decorated Army veteran questioned him and captured it on video.

The video was created by Ryan Berk, who served in Afghanistan



Jeff Chiu/AP

Selfie therapy

Student Annie Tsai takes a photo of herself with a llama on the University of California Berkeley campus in Berkeley, Calif., on Tuesday. The llamas were brought on campus as part of the academic affairs mental health and wellness office to reduce stress for students before finals start.

and received a Purple Heart, had received a few million views on YouTube earlier this week.

Retired Col. Richard Nurnberg, of the National Infantry Association, said it's impossible the man won the three Combat Infantrymen Badges he was wearing.

9-point buck dispute settled with coin flip

WI ONEIDA — A dispute over a nine-point buck in Wisconsin was settled with a coin flip.

Wisconsin's deer season was just a couple hours old on Saturday when D.J. Jorgenson said his son, Kameron, 11, wounded the buck in the town of Oneida.

"Deer hit the ground, and it

came back up, and took off running," Jorgenson said.

The father and son then tracked the animal through the woods to a neighbor's property, Jorgenson told WLUK-TV. Before they could get to it, neighbor Randy Heyrman shot the buck twice from his deer stand to finish it off.

With the deer dead and the hunters deadlocked over who could keep it, they flipped a coin.

"My boy called tails, and it was heads. And (Heyrman) said, 'Well, it looks like it's my deer then,'" Jorgenson said.

All Kameron got was a photo.

Hunters need permission to follow a deer onto private property, and the landowner has a right to take the deer, according to Shad Webster, of the Oneida Conservation Department.

More Atari games from landfill put on eBay

NM ALAMOGORDO — Another batch of Atari game cartridges unearthed in a New Mexico landfill are going up for auction.

The Alamogordo Daily News said between 300 and 400 games uncovered in an Alamogordo dump in April are now open for bidding on eBay.

Joe Lewandowski, a consultant for the film companies that documented the dig, said the offerings include "Yars' Revenge," "Super Breakout" and "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial."

Lewandowski said 50 games at a time will be posted on eBay over the next couple of weeks.

He said there's no telling how

THE CENSUS

\$480

The amount Ebola survivor Amber Vinson wants the bridal store she shopped at in Akron, Ohio, to refund for her bridesmaids' dresses. Attorney Stephen Malouf said Vinson, who has recovered, saw the publicity of her case harm the store and decided to get bridesmaids' dresses elsewhere to avoid further scrutiny for the business. Anna Younker, owner of Coming Attractions Bridal & Formal, said the reimbursements aren't feasible after the store had to temporarily close and lost significant business. She called the refund request a slap in the face.



much money the games will bring in. He said he is still surprised an auction last month generated \$37,000.

Coyote hunts that offer prizes banned

CA California wildlife officials on Wednesday banned coyote hunting contests that have sparked a culture clash by offering cash and other prizes to marksmen who killed the most animals.

It was the first ban of its kind in the nation, according to Camilla Fox, executive director of Project Coyote.

The vote by the state Fish and Game Commission allows hunters to shoot as many of the predators as they wish year-round but stops the awarding of prizes.

Commissioner Jack Baylis said the state also needs to consider protecting responsible hunters and allowing ranchers to manage their livestock.

Missing tree-climbing sculpture recovered

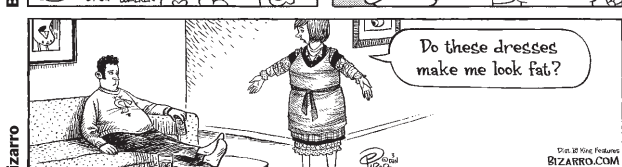
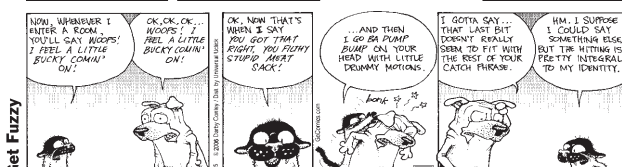
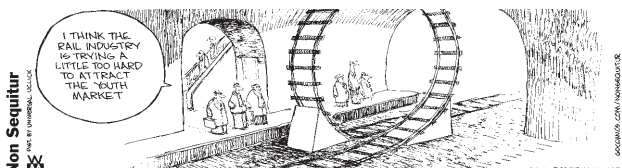
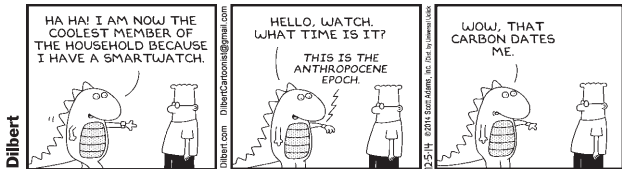
OH DUBLIN — After a publicized search, a missing "tree-climbing man" sculpture has been returned to a central Ohio city.

The "man" is a valuable yellowish-orange sculpture of a life-size tree-climber. It disappeared from its perch in a tree at a park in the Columbus suburb of Dublin a week ago.

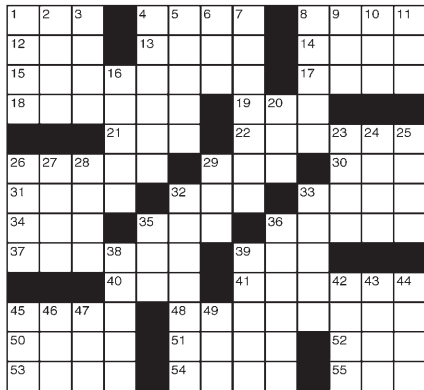
The Columbus Dispatch reported the fiberglass sculpture was one of four installed in trees in Coffman Park in 2008, collectively known as "Exuvia." Officials think it might have been blown out of the tree by recent high winds. It's worth about \$9,000.

City spokeswoman Lindsay Weisenauer said the sculpture was found in another tree in Coffman Park late Tuesday.

From wire reports



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Piercing tool
- 4 Curved molding
- 8 Actress Jessica
- 12 Dance syllable?
- 13 Throw forcefully
- 14 — ex machina
- 15 "House" locale
- 17 Inauguration recitation
- 18 Boorish sorts
- 19 Mischievous tyke
- 21 Put into words
- 22 Feeling of sympathy
- 26 Smooth fabric
- 29 Omega precursor
- 30 Diamond arbiter
- 31 Coll. prep exam
- 32 Adversary
- 33 Dog bane
- 34 Have something
- 35 General Mills offering since 1937
- 36 Housewarming gift, maybe
- 37 Salsa scoopers
- 39 Bikini half
- 40 Business abbr.
- 41 Make effervescent
- 45 Stopper
- 48 Inn
- 50 Penetrating wind
- 51 Fix a text
- 52 Shemp's brother
- 53 Harbor structure

DOWN

- 1 — Breaky Heart
- 2 Horse's halter?
- 3 Cillum
- 4 Buckeye
- 5 Courageous
- 6 Historic time
- 7 Elongated circle
- 8 Take as one's own
- 9 Michele of "Glee"
- 10 However
- 11 Blond shade
- 16 Hypothesize
- 20 — tai
- 23 Luau
- entertainment
- 24 Portent
- 25 Lovers' quarrel
- 26 Bridge
- 27 One side of the Urals
- 28 Body powder
- 29 Plague
- 32 Spassky opponent
- 33 Emergency signal
- 35 — "Tiki"
- 36 "I'll get you, my —"
- 38 Many a backpacker
- 39 Pesto ingredient
- 42 Mater lead-in
- 43 Walked
- 44 Spud's buds
- 45 Filch
- 46 Kimono closer
- 47 Caviar, basically
- 49 Piece from Pindar

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-5

CRYPTOQUIP

NLUVE LX BNVLMDQED HZL

MEKOVO ZKCYVNX KS TSLHKSI

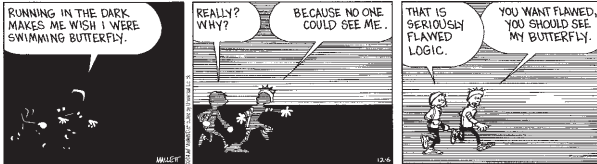
VUVEP LMMLYKQV-CVDSKSI

HLEO: CDET DSQLSPC.

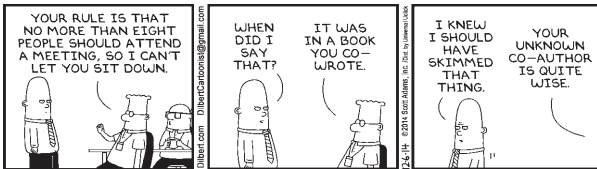
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEFORE THE FEATHERED FLIERS GOT ON THE AIRPLANE, THEY HAD TO DISPLAY THEIR BIRDING PASSES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals F

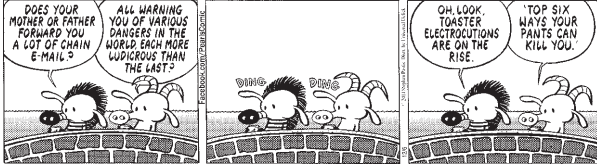
Frazz



Dilbert



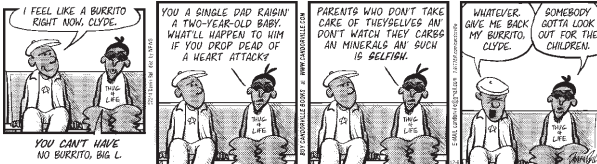
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



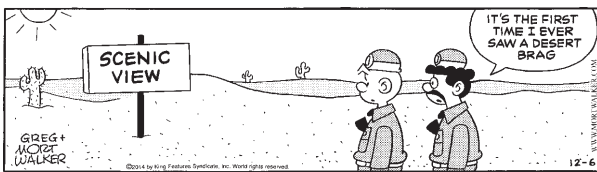
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12							13					
14							15					
16							17	18			19	
			20	21				22	23			
24	25	26		27			28		29	30	31	
32			33				34					
35				36					37			
		38		39		40			41			
42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51				52	53				
54							55					
56							57					

ACROSS

- 1 Stereo
- adjustment knob
- 6 Suffocate
- 12 Environment
- 13 Stocking seller
- 14 Aft
- 15 Expiates
- 16 Unscorted
- 17 Unaltered
- 19 — out a living
- 20 Minnesota's St. — College
- 22 Perched
- 24 Cpl.'s subordinate
- 27 On
- 29 Mentor
- 32 Revolutionary War figure
- 35 Antitoxins
- 36 Primary couleur
- 37 Storm center
- 38 Little devil
- 40 Four-letter word
- 42 Chances, for short
- 44 Lummoxes
- 46 Approximately
- 50 Kibitz, maybe
- 52 "The Handmaid's Tale" author
- 54 East
- 55 Small Jump
- 56 Votes for
- 57 Tinkered (with)

DOWN

- 1 Clenched hand
- 2 Neighbor of Sask.
- 3 Painter Velazquez
- 4 Always, in verse
- 5 Puts off payment
- 6 Counterfeit
- 7 Carries
- 8 Equi-
- 9 Tweak
- 10 Onion's kin
- 11 Gaelic
- 12 More, to Manuela
- 18 In conflict with
- 21 Once around
- 23 Past
- 24 Sleepwear, briefly
- 25 Enemy
- 26 Poirot creator
- 28 Nice
- 30 Mexican monarch
- 31 Work with
- 33 "Platoon" venue
- 34 Protrude
- 39 Essential meaning
- 41 Cowpoke's greeting
- 42 Bassoon relative
- 43 Knitting stitch
- 45 Picnic invaders
- 47 Dissolute fellow
- 48 Auctioneer's cry
- 49 Laudatory writing
- 51 Gumshoe
- 53 As well

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	W	L	O	G	E	R	A	L	B	A
C	H	A	H	U	R	L	D	E	U	S
H	O	S	P	I	T	A	L	O	A	T
Y	A	H	O	O	S	I	M	P		
			S	A	Y	P	A	T	H	O
S	A	T	I	N		P	S	I	U	M
P	S	A	T		F	O	E	F	L	E
A	I	L	K	I	X		P	L	A	N
N	A	C	H	O	S		B	R	A	
			I	N	C	A	E	R	A	T
C	O	R	K		H	O	S	T	E	L
O	B	O	E		E	D	I	T		M
P	I	E	R		R	E	L	Y		A

12-6

CRYPTOQUIP

NJDFN ALPYNNJP FMBHA F
SYJWJ BE XBEA WLJXJ JFAJK
MV F LHDJ-MYNNJC MYPC:

"ALJ SJNYWFK MPYJ."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LOVER OF CLEOPATRA WHO PRIDED HIMSELF IN KNOWING EVERY OPPOSITE-MEANING WORD: MARK ANTONYM.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals B



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'Grand Theft Auto' pulled in Australia

"GTA V" will continue to be sold in Target stores in North America.

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.13
3-month bill	0.03
20-year bond	2.90

SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC

CHINA

RUSSIA

N. KOREA

S. KOREA

Sea of Japan

JAPAN

Pacific Ocean

Seoul 30/17

Osan 32/15

Busan 44/27

Sasebo 48/42

Okinawa 64/56

Iwakuni 47/36

Tokyo 46/36

Misawa 33/19

Guam 84/79

Philippine Sea

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chattanooga,Ga	65	52	Cldy	Fort Wayne	39	34	Rain	Louisville	61	49	Rain	Pocatello	47	30	Cldy	Sioux City	42	21	Cldy	
Alexandria, Tex	71	44	Cldy	Cheyenne	50	42	Pclcy	Fresno	66	49	Rain	Cldy	Lubbock	68	49	PCldy	Portland, Maine	31	14	Cldy	Sioux Falls	38	16	Cldy
Albany, Ohio	56	32	Cldy	Cincinnati	49	47	Rain	Grand Junction	49	28	PCldy	Madison	61	49	Rain	Providence	41	23	Cldy	Spokane	39	23	Rain	
Albuquerque	56	36	PCldy	Cleveland	41	37	Rain	Grand Rapids	39	33	Cldy	Medford	66	44	Cldy	Pueblo	58	32	PCldy	Springfield, Ill	43	24	Rain	
Albany, N.Y.	53	33	Cldy	Colorado Springs	49	47	Rain	Green Bay	41	35	Cldy	Meriden	66	44	Cldy	Richmond	48	33	PCldy	Springfield, Mo	43	24	Rain	
Amariillo	60	33	PCldy	Columbia, S.C.	60	47	Cldy	Green Bay	31	24	Rain	Miami Beach	80	71	Cldy	Reno City	42	21	PCldy	Syracuse	37	16	Cldy	
Anchorage	28	21	Cldy	Columbus, Ga	67	55	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	51	44	Cldy	Midland-Odesa	72	40	PCldy	Reno City	55	28	Cldy	Tallahassee	75	55	PCldy	
Albany, N.Y.	53	33	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	57	47	Cldy	Harrisburg	49	38	Cldy	Richmond	72	40	PCldy	Richmond	48	33	PCldy	Tampa	75	55	PCldy	
Atlanta	62	53	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	31	27	Cldy	Hartford Spring	36	36	Cldy	Mpls-St Paul	32	16	Cldy	Roanoke	45	28	Cldy	Toledo	40	34	Rain	
Atlantic City	51	37	Cldy	Corpus Christi	72	61	Cldy	Honolulu	82	67	Cldy	Mobile	75	59	Cldy	Rockford	39	28	Cldy	Topeka	44	30	Rain	
Austin	47	57	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	54	52	Cldy	Honolulu	82	67	Cldy	Mobile	75	59	Cldy	Rockford	39	28	Cldy	Topeka	44	30	Rain	
Baltimore	45	40	Cldy	Dayton	45	40	Rain	Houston	74	60	Cldy	Montgomery	74	55	Cldy	Sacramento	54	34	Cldy	Tulsa	68	64	0	
Baltimore	45	40	Cldy	Dayton	45	40	Rain	Houston	74	60	Cldy	Montgomery	74	55	Cldy	Sacramento	54	34	Cldy	Tulsa	68	64	0	
Billings	40	25	Cldy	Denver	53	40	PCldy	Indianapolis	45	39	Rain	New Orleans	76	61	Cldy	St Petersburg	66	54	Cldy	Tupelo	70	58	Rain	
Birmingham	69	59	Cldy	Des Moines	40	30	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	73	60	Rain	New York City	64	49	Rain	St Thomas	85	75	Cldy	Washington	47	42	Cldy	
Birmingham	69	59	Cldy	Des Moines	40	30	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	73	60	Rain	New York City	64	49	Rain	St Thomas	85	75	Cldy	Washington	47	42	Cldy	
Boston	38	37	Cldy	El Paso	68	45	PCldy	Kansas City	47	33	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	55	49	Rain	Salt Lake City	51	35	PCldy	W Palm Beach	80	71	Cldy	
Bridgeport	78	64	Cldy	El Paso	68	45	PCldy	Kansas City	47	33	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	55	49	Rain	Salt Lake City	51	35	PCldy	W Palm Beach	80	71	Cldy	
Brownsville	78	64	Cldy	El Paso	68	45	PCldy	Kansas City	47	33	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	55	49	Rain	Salt Lake City	51	35	PCldy	W Palm Beach	80	71	Cldy	
Buffalo	40	37	Cldy	El Paso	68	45	PCldy	Kansas City	47	33	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	55	49	Rain	Salt Lake City	51	35	PCldy	W Palm Beach	80	71	Cldy	
Burlington, Vt.	30	19	PCldy	Evansville	59	44	Rain	Lansing	38	32	Cldy	Paduach	63	46	Rain	San Jose	56	51	Rain	Yakima	38	32	Cldy	
Burlington, Vt.	30	19	PCldy	Evansville	59	44	Rain	Lansing	38	32	Cldy	Paduach	63	46	Rain	San Jose	56	51	Rain	Yakima	38	32	Cldy	
Cambridge, Maine	25	10	PCldy	Fairbanks	5	-10	PCldy	Las Vegas	63	50	PCldy	Pendleton	39	32	Cldy	San Jose	56	51	Rain	Youngstown	41	38	Rain	
Casper	62	42	Cldy	Fargo																				

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- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

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Circulation	Van Rowell rowell.van@stripes.com +49 (0) 161.3615.9111 DSN 314.583.9111	Robert Reismann reismann.robert@stripes.com +49 (0) 161.3615.9111 DSN 314.583.9150		Mari Matsumoto SSPcirculation@stripes.com (81-3) 6385.3171 DSN 315.229.3171	
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Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

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- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.



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Automotive 140

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Art 070

Silver frame, print of French lightshow: 48" wide x 37" high. Perfect condition. email: kiedrich.bill@gmail.com

Silver frame, print of French lightshow: 48" wide x 37" high. Perfect condition. email: kiedrich.bill@gmail.com

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

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loaded needs some work. Sold
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and local. Contact for pictures.
holmanne@hotmail.com

Chrysler, Crossfire, 2005
\$4500.00 Excellent running con-
dition. 3.2 Mercedes V6 New
Summer tires on alloy rims.
New front fender. New tires
anywhere. KN filter. Selling due
to new commute. Will trade for
GS and newer commuter car.
Miles are highway from connect-
ing. singhmunawar@yahoo.com

Ford, Focus, 2007 \$9990.00
Low mileage! Excellent condition,
very well taken care of. Needs
new tires. 0173527214

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Hyundai, i30CW blue, 2011
\$11700.00 color beige great
small vehicle, station wagon, 9
door, 90 HP, PS, PB, ABS,
PDC, trailer hitch, summer tires
on rims fog lights, German
spec, air induction drive, side
door features, AWD FM radio and
ipod/guaranteed@gmail.com

Opel, Corsa C, 2008 \$3200.00,
Mercedes, C230, 2008 \$8200.00,
Manual Transmission. Blue with
grey interior. Air conditioning.
Electric windows, CD30 radio and
CD-i. 100 miles on display. Heated
electric side mirror. Driver's
seat height adjuster. Air Bag.
Adjustable steering column.
Interior wheel lock controls.
Keyless car Remote approx 5.8
miles for 100 miles. With
Winter Tires. Original Owner.
More info or to ask it, please
call 0176-3276556.

Toyota (Shari), RAV4 Limited
Edition V6 4 wheel Drive, 2009
\$15500.00 The car is in great
condition, new tires, new front
and rear brakes. Current on all
maintenance schedules pro-
vided by manufacturer to ensure
warranty was followed. Please
contact me at the following
0162-234-2372 or 570-2460 he
ma118@hotmail.com

VOLVO, V70, 2005 \$4000.00
Buyer must self - selling
garage sale \$2900 Auto (limited
mile) ABS & Winter Mode, front
air bags, Volvo ininflatable curtain, 17
inch alloy wheels, 5 speed manual
power steering and brakes,
power windows, power door locks,
4600 4600 back seat split, 17
inch alloy wheels, 5 speed manual,
Robert J. Martinlin@usa.com, army.
mil

Harley Davidson, VRC Night
2011 \$2099.00 The bike is a
yellow wax black stripe bike.
Engine size is a 1200cc. The
bike is in very good condition
and ready for a new home. It's
located on AMR near Fort
Belvoir in the Red Rock East.
806-202-6870 8062026870
enrth@hotmail.com

Large Sofa by Craftsman. One
year old. 84" x 37" deep x 36"
high. Light tan gold in color.
email: kiedrich.bill@gmail.com

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Motorcycles 164

BMW, XCountry 2007
ABS chain drive, electric start-
er, US spec, and in great
condition, with maintenance re-
cords for more information let
01606629161 or email:
debra.mcnamara@gmail.com

BMW, F 800 GS, 2010
\$13500.00 Enduro with 9000
miles. Bike is in immaculate
condition. Big comes with 2007
owner's manual, service at K&W and
Waggon BMW, has switch-
able ABS, Upgraded dual seat.
Heated grips, Computer etc.
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g), TE Brandon My
y Rainey (ankle), Tr
kins (back). LIMITED
amstring), LB Mason
E Luke Stocker (con
an Dietrich-Smith (ill
ht (shoulder). **LIONS**

NS at JACKSONVILLE

(ankle), WR Andre
related), CB Johna
). LIMITED: LB Brian
Akeem Dent (neck)
on (knee), P Shane
S Danieal Manning

5 (foot), RB Jonathan
erek Newton (knee)
nee). **JAGUARS:** OUT
hamstring). DNP: DE
in), LB Khairi Fort
remiah George (an

at **DENVER BRONCOS** (illness). TE

DT Kyle Williams (ill-
nn (knee). LIMITED: R
nt groin), DT Marcel
Chris Hogan (ham-
ambo (hamstring), WR
o), WR Robert Woods
DND: QB Matt Ryan

LB Lerentee McCray
amme (ribs), CB Kay
der), WR Wes Welke
LIMITED: C Will Mont
Demaryius Thomas

JEFFS at ARIZONA CAR
DNP: DE Allen Bailey
Junior Hemingway

Donnie Avery (groin),
LB Tamba
RB Jamaal Charles
Quitt (right calf), CE
nstring), LB Dee Ford
ames-Michael John

Josh Mauga (back)
 nee), CB Sean Smith
 : No Data Reported.
 /KS at PHILADELPHIA
 KS: No Data Reported
 ck Foles (collarbone)
 (right groin). D

49ERS at OAKLAND
DNP: CB Tramaine
Anthony Davis (con

McDonald (back), DT Joe Staley (illness) (groin). LIMITED: WR (knee), CB Chris Culley, Glenn Dorsey (forearm), Hyde (shoulder), DT (nerve). FULL: WR Bruce

PATRIOTS at SAN DIEGO:
PATRIOTS: No Data
S: DNP: NT Ryan Carr
 Dwight Freenev (no

INS at GREEN BAY
Reported.

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Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	15	4	.789	—
Brooklyn	8	9	.471	6
Boston	5	11	.313	8½
New York	4	15	.211	11
Philadelphia	17	0	.056	13½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	12	5	.706	—
Atlanta	11	6	.647	1
Miami	9	9	.500	3½
Orlando	7	14	.333	7
Charlotte	5	15	.211	9

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	12	7	.632	—
Cleveland	9	7	.563	1½
Milwaukee	10	10	.500	2½
Indiana	7	11	.389	4½
Detroit	3	16	.158	9

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	15	3	.833	—
Houston	14	4	.778	1
Dallas	5	5	.500	5
San Antonio	13	5	.722	2
New Orleans	8	5	.615	6

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	14	4	.778	—
Denver	11	9	.550	5
Oklahoma City	13	5	.728	9
Utah	5	14	.263	39½
Minnesota	4	13	.235	9½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	13	2	.882	—
L.A. Clippers	5	5	.500	2½
Phoenix	13	8	.615	6½
Sacramento	9	9	.500	6½
L.A. Lakers	5	14	.263	11

Tuesday's games

Cleveland 111, Milwaukee 108	
Atlanta 109, Boston 105	
L.A. Lakers 106, Detroit 96	
Brooklyn 98, New York 93	
Phoenix 116, Oklahoma City 104	
Dallas 132, Chicago 129, 2OT	
Phoenix 116, Indiana 99	
Portland 105, Denver 103	
Toronto 117, Sacramento 109	
Golden State 98, Orlando 97	

Wednesday's games

Washington 111, L.A. Lakers 95	
Chicago 102, Charlotte 95	
Atlanta 112, Miami 102	
Boston 109, Detroit 102, OT	
Brooklyn 95, San Antonio 93, OT	
Houston 105, Memphis 96	
Dallas 107, Milwaukee 105	
Philadelphia 85, Minnesota 77	
Toronto 123, Utah 104	
L.A. Clippers 114, Orlando 86	

Thursday's games

Cleveland at New York	
Indiana at Portland	
New Orleans at Golden State	
Oklahoma City at Philadelphia	
Denver at Washington	
New York at Charlotte	
Cleveland at Toronto	
L.A. Lakers at Boston	
Atlanta at Brooklyn	
San Antonio at Memphis	
Houston at Minnesota	
Phoenix at Dallas	
Miami at Milwaukee	
Orlando at Utah	
Indiana at Sacramento	

Saturday's games

Philadelphia at Detroit	
Golden State at Chicago	
Phoenix at Houston	
Minnesota at San Antonio	
Orlando at Sacramento	
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers	

Leaders

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	18	127	155	494	25.0
Harden, HOU	18	127	155	450	25.0
Davis, NOR	16	154	91	359	24.9
James, CLE	16	135	102	399	24.9
Curry, GSW	17	137	75	403	23.7

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Cousins, SAC	15	46	148	189	12.6
Drummond, DET	19	49	189	228	12.0
Jordan, LAC	18	56	158	214	11.9
Chandler, DAL	20	27	150	237	11.9
Vucevic, ORL	19	64	159	223	11.7

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	15	164	10.9
Lawson, WSH	17	175	10.3
Wall, WAS	17	164	9.6
Paul, LAL	18	171	9.5
Curry, GSW	17	129	7.6

Team USA stars off to hot starts

International experience paying off for new generation of NBA talent

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
The Associated Press

The first time the Golden State Warriors practiced this season, new coach Steve Kerr noticed something different about Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson compared to the rest of the team.

The backcourt tandem, fresh off helping the U.S. to a gold medal in the FIBA World Cup, had spent all summer playing together.

"They were definitely ahead of everyone in training camp," Kerr said. "You could just see it. They were in a groove from the first exhibition game, and they've played great throughout the first few weeks of the season."

They're not alone, either.

Many of the players on that team have carried the success from Spain back to the NBA. While the risks of participating dominated the national dialogue after Paul George's gruesome right leg injury and Kevin Durant dropped out, those who stayed believe there's a link between the work this summer and the wins this fall.

"When you get a chance to do something like that, especially in the summer, it gives us kind of like motivation and energy leading into the season," said Anthony Davis, who leads New Orleans against Golden State on Thursday night. "It makes sure you go into the season running instead of having to get back in shape and get your game back on point."

Davis entered Thursday's games averaging career highs of 24.9 points, 11.3 rebounds and 3.1 blocks. Thompson and Curry each won Western Conference Player of the Week honors to open the season, and Curry also took home Western Conference Player of the Month honors.

The streaky shooting "Splash Brothers" have the Golden State Warriors (15-2) off to their best start in franchise history, including winning 10 straight games. James Harden has the Houston Rockets looking like title contenders, too, and DeMarcus Cousins and Rudy Gay are beginning to bring the Sacramento Kings back to relevance after eight consecutive losing seasons.

Players say they returned to their teams confident, conditioned and craving another chance to compete at basketball's highest levels.

"I haven't really had that feeling

playing in that type of game maybe since college when I was playing in the NCAA tournament," said Cousins, who is averaging career bests of 23.5 points, 12.6 rebounds and 1.5 blocks. "Being in that type of game, it felt good to win."

But the impact of playing for Team USA goes beyond statistics. Kyrie Irving said playing with some of the game's greatest stars helped prepare him for his role next to LeBron James and Kevin Love on the reconstructed Cleveland Cavaliers. Detroit Pistons center Andre Drummond credits his time with Team USA for teaching him how to be a leader. The experience inspired Denver's Kenneth Faried to improve.

Thompson attributes the growth in his game to a self-assured attitude and a better understanding of how to maximize his talents.

"I knew I could play. I sort of surprised myself and it gave me a whole new sense of confidence coming into the season just knowing that I could be such a big factor on such a great team," said Thompson, who is averaging a career-high 20.9 points.

In some cases, though, playing this summer has reignited questions about being overworked.

Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan is out indefinitely with a torn tendon in his left groin. Chicago's Derrick Rose, who used the experience to get back into playing shape after missing most of the last two years with knee injuries, has sprained both ankles and been bothered by a sore left hamstring. Gay also has dealt with tendinitis in his right Achilles tendon.

There's no way to say whether those injuries are due to playing for Team USA. Players do say, however, that recovering for the NBA season is more of a concern for older veterans than for any of the young guys who participated. Gay was the oldest player on the team — and he's still just 28.

No player averaged more than 25 minutes with Team USA, and most say that beating Finland by 59, the Dominican Republic by 35 and Slovenia by 33 might not have helped them get that much better. But the competition in practices was intense and unlike anything most had ever faced.

"It forced you to get better," Curry said. "And I think we all came out of it feeling like we did."



ALEX BRANDON/AP

New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis dunks the ball during a game in Washington against the Wizards. Davis is averaging career-highs in points, rebounds, and blocks after spending the summer playing for Team USA in the FIBA World Cup.

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden's Hunter Lunasin, top, beat Patch's William Miller in the 220-pound final at the DODDS Europe championships last year. Lunasin is wrestling in the 195-pound class this year.

Wrestling preview

Numbers add up for Patch

Panthers are favorite to defend D-I title; Wiesbaden still climbing

BY GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The closer you look at the wrestling roster of the 2014-15 Patch Panthers, the more impressive it is.

The reigning Division I European champions will defend their title behind a sturdy roster of 45 wrestlers. Among those 45 wrestlers are 22 returnees from last year's squad, a nearly unheard-of number by DODDS Europe standards. And among those 22 returnees are three defending European individual champions.

In short, the Panthers are well-positioned to be very, very good again.

That's not an unfamiliar position for Patch. The program won four consecutive European team titles before the Ramstein Royals interrupted the reign in 2012-13. The Panthers emphatically restarted their dynasty last winter, outlasting Wiesbaden and Ramstein by a margin of more than 100 points at the European tournament.

Even with history and mathematics squarely on his team's side, however, Patch coach Norm Matzke is concentrating on simpler aspirations.

"Stay focused, work hard, have fun and do the best we can," Matzke said.

If all goes according to plan, that should be good enough for a second consecutive title. The Panthers' talent base extends up and down DODDS Europe's 14 weight classes, producing Patch points at every turn. Returning European champions Christopher Matzke, Matthew Bolduc and Robert Call are primed to repeat, and at least a few other individual title contenders should emerge from the Panthers' deep and experienced roster.

The Panthers, however, won't run to the title unopposed.

While its raw numbers don't quite match Patch, Wiesbaden appears poised to continue its steady climb up the DODDS-Europe ranks and build on its runner-up finish of a year ago. Reigning 220-pound champion Hunter Lunasin expects to compete at the slimmer 195-pound class, where the standout football lineman's power should prove even more overwhelming. The senior headlines a cast of 16 returning competitors among the Warriors' 29-wrestler roster.

Ramstein, meanwhile, will need a lot of things to fall into place quickly if it is to again threaten Patch's dominance. Coaches Steve Kennedy and Tom Wright have just seven wrestlers back from last year, with no returning European finalists. Kennedy said the

Royals plan to "rebuild slowly and methodically," hopefully unearthing enough raw talent from its 50-wrestler roster to send a substantial contingent to the European tournament in February.

Rebuilding is a buzzword around DODDS-Europe wrestling mats these days. In addition to Ramstein, historically strong programs such as Vilseck, Bitburg, Kaiserslautern and Vicenza report similarly inexperienced rosters. For many, that shifts the season's emphasis from immediate contention to constructing a solid base for future success. Kaiserslautern head coach Brian Daly's 33-wrestler team includes 14 first-time competitors.

"Our goal this year is to give our new, young wrestlers enough mat time to gain the experience needed to succeed throughout their high school career," Daly said.

Perhaps at the end of that process, such a team might have the numbers to rival Patch. But for this season, it just doesn't appear to add up.

The wrestling season begins Saturday with meets at Brussels, Kaiserslautern, Ansbach and Vicenza. Sectional qualifiers are set for Feb. 7; the European championships follow Feb. 13-14 at Wiesbaden.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes

DODDS Europe Wrestling At a Glance

Key dates: The season opens at four sites across three countries on Saturday; the teams return from the holiday break Jan. 10; Patch, Wiesbaden and Ramstein share the title Jan. 31, the final week of the regular season; sectional qualifiers are set for Feb. 7; European champions will be decided Feb. 13-14 at Wiesbaden.

Teams to watch: Defending Division I champion Patch returns 22 wrestlers, including three European champions; Division I runner-up Wiesbaden boasts a deep 29-wrestler roster; perennial contenders Ramstein and Vilseck have numbers but lack experience; Vicenza and Naples headline the Italian contenders; Alconbury continues to fight valiantly against its school-size disadvantage.

Wrestlers to watch: Christopher Matzke, Patch (120, European champion at 113); Matthew Bolduc, Patch (126, European champion at 106); Robert Call, Patch (138, European champion at 132); Hunter Lunasin, Wiesbaden (195, European champion at 220); Brady Lemon, Kaiserslautern (170, European champion at 182); Andreas Rios, Ramstein (138, European semifinalist); Colten Menges, Lakeview (220, European semifinalist at 170); Brandon Beaumont, Bitburg (126, European semifinalist); Eduardo Castaneda, Vilseck (138, fast-improving sophomore).

Marksmanship preview

Panthers have shot at rare repeat title

BY GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

Recent seasons of DODDS Europe marksmanship have been marked by parity and unpredictability. Patch, Vilseck and Hohenfels have earned team championships in the last four seasons, and a different individual champion has been crowned every year over the past decade.

But this year might be different. As the 2014-15 season approaches, the Panthers are prohibitive favorites to win their second straight title.

Patch, which won DODDS Europe team championships in 2014, 2012, 2010 and 2009, has all the elements of another championship team in place. As the program begins to further separate itself from DODDS-Europe competition, the Panthers enter the season with a simple objective, head coach Raul Pinon said: "to sustain our strengths."

And Patch has plenty of strengths.

The Panthers have top-level talent. Reigning individual champion Caelyn Miller is back for her senior season and the chance to become a rare two-time winner. Fellow Patch senior Maggie Ehmman, who matched Miller's season-high score of 290 last Dec. 7 and went on to finish second at the European championship, returns with her.

The Panthers have experienced senior leadership. In addition to Miller and Ehmman, seniors Kaitlin Brooks and Robbie Petersen are on hand to guide the program's less-experienced marksmen.

Finally, the Panthers have unparalleled depth. Pinon carries 13 shooters on the varsity squad and another 16 in sporter class, the sport's de facto junior-varsity program.

So can anybody prevent another Panther coronation?

Recent champions Hohenfels and Vilseck seem the most likely candidates.

Hohenfels has four returnees on its seven-person roster, including one of last season's top-five shoot-

ers in Katherine Gamble. Vilseck boasts fast-rising sophomore Victoria Banister, returning senior captain Taylor Tucker and senior transfer Sabrina Calor, who made the regional move to Vilseck after her Bamberg team and school closed last summer.

Though Bamberg dropped out of the marksmanship ranks, the sport is growing in DODDS Europe. Naples and Kaiserslautern are new additions to the field, joining returning programs Alconbury, Baumholder, Vicenza and Wiesbaden in hopes of cracking the organization's upper tier of programs. Kaiserslautern coach Robert Meyer said his team, which includes just two experienced shooters on the nine-person roster, will be happy just to "get on the board" this year and launch the program toward future contention.

They'll get their chance starting this week. The five-meet regular season opens Saturday with meets at Vicenza, Baumholder and Hohenfels and continues Dec. 13 before breaking for the holidays. The schedule resumes and concludes in January, with three straight Saturdays of regular-season competition starting Jan. 10, followed by the championship at Patch on Jan. 31.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes

DODDS Europe marksmanship at a glance

Key dates: All 10 teams will be in action at three sites when the season opens Saturday; all teams will compete remotely and spare travel expenses on Jan. 17; the tournament is set for Jan. 31 at Patch.

Teams to watch: Defending champion Patch returns Europe's top two shooters; perennial contenders Hohenfels, Vilseck and Ansbach will push the Panthers; new additions Kaiserslautern and Naples join the fray.

Competitors to watch: Caelyn Miller, Patch (defending European individual champion); Maggie Ehmman, Patch (2013-14 European runner-up); Katherine Gamble, Hohenfels (top-five regular season performer); Victoria Banister, Vilseck (returning sophomore).



JOSHUA L. DeMotts/Stars and Stripes

From left to right, Patch's Caelyn Miller, Maggie Ehmman and Ben Ferguson prepare to shoot in the bonus round as the top three finishers in the European championships last year.

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

Wrestling preview

Teams adjust to new rules

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

Rule changes are becoming old hat in Pacific high school wrestling, and for the second straight year, coaches and wrestlers are grappling with more new rules, though this year's changes are mostly liked by coaches.

■ Three- and five-point throws are out. Any "feet to danger" throw, regardless of amplitude, is now worth four points.

■ Wrestlers now must accumulate 10 points for a superior decision/technical superiority. A season ago, it was seven, which many coaches complained was not enough and made too many bouts too short.

■ In the event bouts end in a scoreless draw, the overtime clinch is out. It's replaced by a 30-second overtime period in which the wrestler who scores the most points or is deemed the more aggressive in the referee's judgment is declared the winner.

■ Water breaks are now permitted between periods, giving wrestlers a chance to hydrate during the one-minute breaks.

The changes were adopted over the summer by international freestyle wrestling's governing body, now known as United World Wrestling.

Most Pacific coaches surveyed agreed with the changes, saying that it gives wrestlers more of a hand in deciding things and makes things safer for them.

"I'm good with them. I know the impetus and the background and I know what the wrestling federation is trying to accomplish," said Steve Schrock, back for his 13th season as Kadema coach after taking four seasons off and refereeing during that time.

Justin Edmonds, in his 11th season coaching defending Far East Division II champion Edgren, says it helps align the sport more with collegiate folkstyle rules used in the States and DODDS



Joe Pak-BLYNN/Special to Stripes

Seoul American 215-pound senior Jack Barnes tosses Connor McKnight at practice. Barnes is one of three returning Far East champions from last year.

Europe.

"It should have been this way all along," Edmonds said. "It means the kids will wrestle more and it brings us more integrated with the way wrestling is done in the United States."

Doing away with the overtime clinch is a huge win for wrestlers, Schrock said. In the past, when a bout ended 0-0 after regulation, the referee would toss a coin, red on one side and blue on the other, and the toss-winning wrestler would then get to clinch his opponent's leg. Most times, the wrestler with the clinch would win the bout in short order.

"It minimizes the amount of chance and puts it in the wrestlers' hands," Schrock said.

UWW's reasoning for not allowing water breaks in the past was the chance that bottles could be spiked with performance-enhancing substances, something almost unheard of in Pacific high school wrestling, Schrock said.

The 10-point technical superiority is something defending Far East Division I freestyle champion St. Mary's would have liked

to have had last year, coach Shu Yabui said. Three of his wrestlers, Ryo and Riku Osawa and Ryan Vasconcellos, lost in Far East title bouts by seven-point superiority.

He gives his Titans a good chance to pile up medals at lower weight classes, especially Vasconcellos, a junior, "but we're very thin in upper weights," said Yabui, a former three-time Far East champ.

Kubasaki and Kadema of Okinawa have been given permission to return on a self-funded basis to the Nile C. Kinnick invitational "Beast of the Far East" tournament they missed last season.

"It makes it easier to prepare" for Far East, Dragons coach Ron Geist said.

Far East is scheduled for Feb. 12-14 and will be at Osan for the first time. Cougars coach Duke Allen says he has the most numbers he's had in his four seasons, including veteran Sam Kim and three transfers. "With a solid core of tough kids, this could be the strongest Osan team in several years," Allen said.

ornauer.dave@stripes.com

Team capsules

Division I

South Korea

2014 Far East tournament: Sixth in individual freestyle.

Head coach: Ben Pak, third season.

Key performers: Jack Barnes, Sr., 215 (Far East champion).

Outlook: Rebuilding. Very young, mostly ninth and 10th graders with limited experience. Lack of filled weight classes at all DODDS schools in Korea won't help Falcons get more experience.

Okinawa

Kadena Panthers

2014 Far East tournament: Fourth in individual freestyle, fourth in dual meet.

Head coach: Steve Schrock, 13th season (took last four years off).

Key performers: Tasi Duana, Sr., 101 (sixth last year); Jason Bland, Jr., 141 (second last year); Aaron Harp, Sr., 148 (dual meet); John Murphy, Sr., 215; Alek Gomez, Jr., 215; Niko Martinez, Sr., 108.

Outlook: Reloading. Schrock returns to a program he's led to six Far East tournament titles. Strong at the lower weights, upper weights show promise but need developing.

2014 Far East tournament: Third in individual freestyle and dual meet.

Head coach: Ron Geist, fourth season (assisted Justin Cook last season).

Key performers: Ron Geist, Sr., 215 (first last year); Christian Fernandez, Sr., heavyweight (Far East champion).

Outlook: Reloading. Strong at the upper weights with Allen and Fernandez, but very few experienced elsewhere. Still, Geist says he's able to fill all 13 weight classes, which "hopefully" will make the Dragons competitive.

Japan

Kinn Red Devils

2014 Far East tournament: Second in individual freestyle, dual-meet champion.

Head coach: Gary Wilson, fifth season.

Key performers: Vincent Salles, Jr., 117 (first last year); Matthew Abrenilla, Jr., 108 (third last year); Brady Yoder, Sr., 148 (third at 135 last year); Janni Labato, Sr., 122 (fourth at 115 last year); Ian Olson, Sr., 158 (two-time Far East medalist); Chris Deibel, Jr., heavyweight (third last year).

Outlook: Rebuilding-reloading. There's a good group of experienced Far East wrestlers, but depth is down from past years. Injuries could make for problems. A number of new faces moving up from JV and trying the sport for the first time, including DODDS Pacific football rushing champion Dre Paylor.

Division II

South Korea

2014 Far East tournament: Second in individual freestyle, fourth in dual meet.

Head coach: Jeramie Lentz, fourth season.

Key performer: Myoung Baek, Sr., 148 (first last year); Jaydon Krucz, Sr., 115 (sixth at 108 last year).

Outlook: Rebuilding. Small in numbers and only six or seven competitive wrestlers. Not enough to win dual meets, but possibly capture individual medals.

Humphreys Blackhawks

2014 Far East tournament: Tied for fifth in individual freestyle, fourth in dual meet.

Head coach: Eric Rogers, second season.

Key performers: Austin Rudd, Sr., 180 (sixth last year; unbeaten in Korea regular season); Daniel Seung, 148; Nathaniel Kwon, Sr., 129; Stephen Gayton, Jr., 215.

Outlook: Still rebuilding. Young team is lower than last year, but expectations are higher, at least at the D-II level.

Osan Cougars

2014 Far East tournament: Tied for fifth in individual freestyle, second in dual meet for second straight year.

Head coach: Mike Allen, fourth season.

Key performers: Sam Kim, Jr., 122 (sixth last year and 2013); Kade Leonard, Sr., 168; Brenden Becker, Sr., 148; Brent Smith, Sr., 141; Cory W. Harding, Jr., 122; Kai Chaffield, Jr., 135 (transferred from Missouri); Jordan Niles, Sr., 141 (transferred from SHAPE, Belgium); Jerome Norris, Jr., 101 (transferred from SHPE); Christian Schmitz, Jr., 180 (transferred from Edgren).

Outlook: Contending. Cougars were one match away from capturing a Far East team title a year ago. Largest group of returners yet for Allen. Solid experience in the middle weight classes. Could be Osan's strongest team in several years.

Japan

Yokota Panthers

2014 Far East tournament: Ninth in individual freestyle in Division I.

Head coach: Ty Gauge, second season.

Key performers: Joshua Lambie, Sr., 129; Jordan Goodman, Sr., 135 (transfer from Texas).

Outlook: Rebuilding. Just one senior, 11 sophomores and seven freshmen. Six wrestlers in their first season. All about gaining experience. Wrestling at Division I for the first time in the school's history.

Trotter Trojans

2014 Far East tournament: Third in individual freestyle in Division I.

Head coach: Ben Greenman, first season.

Key performers: Jacob Martin, Jr., heavyweight; Ryan Farrell, Jr., 148; Taku Kawasaki, Sr., 129; Kevin Groce, Jr., 180; Sam Preston, Sr., 168; Curtis Blunt, Sr., 135; Michael Garcia, Sr., 141; Devin Kinsler, Sr., 161; Peter Robles, Jr., 141; Trayland Rose, Jr., 215.

Outlook: Rebuilding. Third head coach in three seasons and only two seniors on a very young team featuring eight freshmen. Focus is on the future, and the team is working on fundamental skills.

2014 Far East tournament: Reigning Division II individual freestyle, dual meet champion.

Head coach: Justin Edmonds, 11th season.

Key performers: Sky Phillips, Jr., 141 (sixth at 135 last year); J.P. Krussick, Sr., 168 (fifth at 158 last year); Jackson Edmonds, Jr., 155; Patrick Sleight, Sr., 101.

Outlook: Rebuilding, after much of the team that swept Far East titles graduated or transferred. Small core of veterans return, but they've done solid work in recruiting new wrestlers.

E.J. King Cobras

2014 Far East tournament: Fourth in individual freestyle.

Head coach: Joe Cockerell, fourth season.

Key performers: David Jackson, Sr., 135/141; Thomas McGrath, Sr., 148; Ricky Salinas, Sr., 180 (first last year); Abby Quinteros, Sr., 115/122.

Outlook: Rebuilding. A small group of veterans back, but they've done solid work in recruiting new wrestlers.

Perry Samurai

2014 Far East tournament: Seventh in individual freestyle.

Head coach: Kevin Peterson, third season.

Key performers: Christopher Lynch, Jr., 141; Matt Smith, Sr., 148; Mozhiah Stewart, Sr., 101; Kieran McIntyre, Sr., 148.

Outlook: Continuing with rebuilding stage, always a tough task at the smallest school in DODDS Pacific. Got off to a late start of practice, so weight classes have been fluctuating. All weights should be filled, Peterson said, save for 168 and 215.

Other returning Far East tournament champions: Chase Smith, Sr., 129, St. Mary's; Ryan Vasconcellos, 122 (2013), St. Mary's.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Big Ten title has eluded Buckeyes

By RUSTY MILLER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State coach Urban Meyer showed smooth timing as he went down the list of accomplishments by his senior class.

He mentioned that they helped set a school record with 24 consecutive wins, that they've won 35 of their last 38 games, that they've captured three Big Ten division titles and that they haven't lost a conference game the last three regular seasons.

Then, without skipping a beat, he added, "One thing you'll notice I did not mention in there was a championship."

After going 6-7 as freshmen, and then missing out on the league title game due to NCAA probation, they were beaten by Michigan State 34-24 in last year's Big Ten championship game.

Now the Buckeyes (11-1, 8-0 Big Ten, No. 5 CFP) get a second chance at winning one when they take on No. 11 Wisconsin (10-2, 7-1, No. 13 CFP) on Saturday night in Indianapolis.

Like having a résumé with a gigantic hole in the middle, the Buckeyes know that all of their accomplishments don't mean much without this one prize.

"A lot of guys in our class are like, 'We haven't won anything since we've been here,'" senior cornerback Doran Grant said. "We've won a couple Eastern Division championships, but we haven't won a Big Ten title or anything bigger than that. That's our main goal."

Two weeks ago Meyer said returning to Indianapolis was his team's primary goal coming into the season.

"That was everything," he said. "Everything we did was to get another shot at the Big Ten championship. Everything, and that's at



**Big Ten Championship
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the doorstep."

Wisconsin stands in the way. And the Badgers are almost the anti-Buckeyes when it comes to Big Ten titles.

They've played in the championship three of its four years and are chasing their fourth Big Ten crown in five seasons after winning three in a row, 2010-12.

Meanwhile, the Buckeyes — despite being national contenders the past three years — can't even claim one ring.

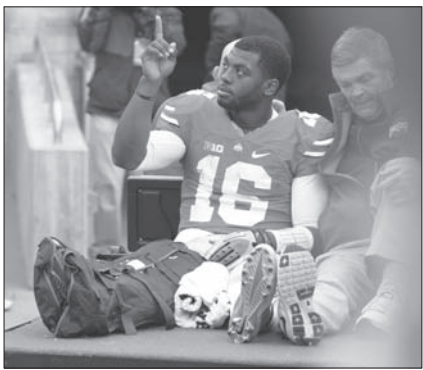
The Buckeyes would also miss out on a shot at the playoff if they lose to the Badgers.

They've steadily climbed in the CFP rankings. But now that they're so close to contending for one of those four precious berths, they're coming off a win over rival Michigan in which they lost star quarterback J.T. Barrett to a broken ankle.

Jeff Long, chairman of the committee which decides the playoff teams, said his group will judge the Buckeyes' performance without Barrett and with Cardale Jones as his replacement to see if Ohio State is worthy of a playoff spot.

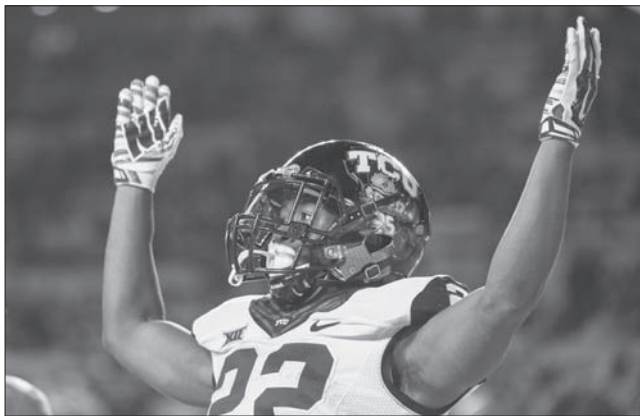
A lot is clearly riding on this one game at Lucas Oil Stadium.

"That's how you want to go out," tight end Jeff Heuerman said. "You want to go out being a Big Ten champion."



Jay LaPrete/AP

Ohio State will have to try to win the Big Ten title without quarterback J.T. Barrett, who broke his ankle during last week's victory over Michigan.



Ashley Landis/AP

TCU's Aaron Green celebrates a touchdown during the second half of last week's 48-10 victory over Texas in Austin, Texas. TCU is in position to make the first playoff if it can beat Iowa State on Saturday.

TCU, Baylor might benefit from no Big 12 title game

By LUKE MEREDITH
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The final weekend in the Big 12 will illustrate both the risk and reward that come with the league's decision to do away with its title game.

The lack of a championship game might not always work out for the Big 12 in the playoff era. This year, it could help push Baylor and TCU into the final four.

While the rest of the nation's top playoff contenders face title-game showdowns — or elimination games, depending on how they play — the Big 12 wraps up its regular season with three games that are part of its round-robin schedule with 10 teams.

No. 5 Baylor (10-1, 7-1 Big 12), which was seventh in last week's playoff standings, will get one more chance to boost its résumé when it hosts No. 9 Kansas State (9-2, 7-1) on Saturday. No. 4 TCU (10-1, 7-1) entertains woeful Iowa State (2-9, 0-8), while No. 18 Oklahoma (8-3, 5-3) and Oklahoma State (5-6, 3-5) tangle in Norman.

"I think the fact of the matter is there will be some years, like this one, where we feel just great about where we are. And there will be other years where we'll say 'Gee, we wish we had one more game to play because we might be able to differentiate ourselves,'" Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said.

The Big 12 hasn't had a team compete in the national title game since Texas lost to Alabama following the 2009 season. TCU and Baylor each appear to have shots at ending that streak — partly be-



Tim Sharp/AP

Baylor quarterback Bryce Petty missed most of the second half of last week's 48-46 victory over Texas Tech.

cause they don't face the possibility of a rematch in a league title game.

The team ahead of the fifth-ranked Horned Frogs in last week's playoff rankings, Mississippi State, lost at Ole Miss and finished the regular season with two losses.

The team behind TCU, Ohio State, beat Michigan. The Buckeyes also lost star quarterback J.T. Barrett for the year with an ankle injury.

But TCU is almost in a no-win situation on Saturday by playing the struggling Cyclones instead of a fellow championship contender.

The Horned Frogs are expected to blow out Iowa State. But if they struggle like they did against Kansas a few weeks back, the committee might have a rea-

son to re-examine its résumé.

That's why Iowa State coach Paul Rhoads is preparing to face a team looking for all the style points it can earn.

"They don't want to leave any doubt in any member of the selection committee that they deserve to be in the top four," Rhoads said. "We've seen all the tape. There's no question they belong in the final four. But they'll be going out to leave no doubts in anybody's minds."

Baylor will benefit from the Mississippi State loss and the uncertainty with the Buckeyes' quarterback situation as well.

The Bears also beat TCU head to head — and a win over K-State would arguably be as impressive as anything Alabama, Oregon or Florida State could pull off this weekend.

Bowlsby said the league's round-robin schedule means that teams have to go through everyone in the league to win the championship — and he added that the NCAA doesn't allow 10-team leagues to play a title game any year.

This year, that looks like a good thing for the league.

"We like playing everybody," Bowlsby said. "There may be years in the future where our teams carve each other up and our champion is going to have three losses in the league. At that point, it's going to be very difficult to access the playoff. So, I think we're always looking to gather as much information as we can and make decisions in light of modern circumstances. But there's going to be years when it's great, and there's going to be years when it isn't."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



DON JUAN MOORE/AP

Seminoles quarterback Jameis Winston, right, and his attorney David Cornwell arrive at Florida State's Materials Research building for his student code of conduct hearing on Tuesday in Tallahassee, Fla.

Normal Chaos

Seminoles keep on winning despite constant stream of off-field issues

By BRENT KALLESTAD
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Chaos has become the norm at Florida State.

There seems to be a constant stream of off-field issues swirling around the Seminoles, who just keep winning games and championships amid the turmoil.

This week is no different. Quarterback Jameis Winston has spent part of the week participating in a university hearing to determine if violated the student code of conduct. The undefeated Seminoles were dropped in the College Football Rankings despite winning their 28th straight game.

Through it all, the Seminoles are preparing to take on Georgia Tech (No. 11 in CFP) in Saturday's Atlantic Coast Conference title game in Charlotte, N.C.

"Our team keeps looking forward," Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher said. "We are achieving, getting better and doing things we have to do."

One thing Fisher did this week was move practice Tuesday to the evening which allowed Winston to participate after five hours at the closed-door student conduct code disciplinary hearing that continued on Wednesday, before ending Wednesday afternoon. The woman who said Winston sexually assaulted her in December 2012 also participated in the hearing, which was held to determine whether Winston violated any or all of four sections of the code of conduct — two for sexual misconduct and two for endangerment.

No decision was made after the hearing. Winston and the woman were asked to submit final recommendations to a hearing officer within the next week. Former Florida Supreme Court Justice Major Harding then has 10 school days to rule.

In addition to the hearing this week, the College Playoff committee dropped Florida State — the nation's only major college unbeaten

team — to No. 4 on Tuesday. That would set up a matchup with Alabama if the rankings remain intact after all the conference championships are settled this weekend. The Seminoles had already fallen behind Alabama in the weekly Top 25 poll announced Sunday.

Fisher questions how winning can be devalued regardless of style points or game control.

"We're turning into figure skaters," he said in reference to the new playoff selection process. "We're judging."

While there seems to be questions about Florida State's close victories, Fisher sees the wins as the reigning national champions passing every test they've faced.

The Seminoles were down 21-0 at Louisville and won 42-31, trailed North Carolina State 24-7 and won 56-41, got behind at Miami 16-0 and won 30-26. Archival Florida took a 9-0 lead last week before the Seminoles prevailed 24-19. Then there were the home wins against Notre Dame and Boston College as time ran out.

"These guys have been able to battle through and achieve," Fisher said. "I want them to understand how tough they really are, how mentally tough they are. How they've been able to overcome a lot of those things. It's hard to go back-to-back seasons defeated."

The seasons clefman, now ranked 19th, 23-17 with Winston watching from the sideline as he served a one-game suspension for an obscene outburst on campus. The defense and sophomore backup quarterback Sean Maguire got it done against the Tigers. Maguire passed for 304 yards and a touchdown in his first collegiate start.

Florida State has run roughshod over its ACC brethren the last three years. Since an early season three-game skid in 2011, Florida State has won 45 of 48 games, including 23 in a row in the ACC.

They'll need another one Saturday against the Yellow Jackets to get a shot at winning back-to-back national titles.

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — After knocking off his biggest rival, Paul Johnson couldn't help himself.

"Not bad for a high-school offense," the Georgia Tech coach quipped to a reporter.

That's just the way P.J. rolls.

He relishes the role of underdog, the little guy defying the odds, which makes Saturday night's appearance in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game all the more satisfying.

He is confident to the point of arrogance, prickly at times, and sure doesn't mind sparring a bit with those who take issue with that triple-option offense.

"Why do I poke back after being poked at for 30 years?" he said, breaking into a sly grin and mockingly answering his own question. "I have no idea."

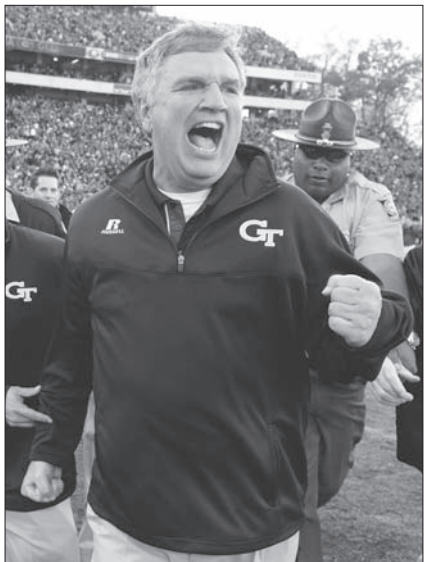
The No. 12 Yellow Jackets (10-2) will face defending national champion Florida State (12-0), a team that has gone more than two years without a loss.

Don't expect Johnson and his team to show the least bit of deference to the No. 2 Seminoles.

Johnson is defiant toward those who say his beloved offensive scheme is out of touch with the modern football world, who claim he'll never be able and a bunch of A-list recruits when he insists on using a system that doesn't translate to the NFL.

"People are going to say what they want to say. I have a whole body of work," Johnson said. "I've been a head coach for 18 years. Fourteen of those 18 years, my teams have won their division or their conference. If that's not good enough, I guess it's not good enough. I'll let someone else make that decision."

Johnson was honored Tuesday



DAVID TULLS/AP

Georgia Tech head coach Paul Johnson shouts and clenches his fist after beating Georgia 30-24 in overtime last Saturday in Athens, Ga.

as the ACC coach of the year, the third time he's received that honor in seven years at Georgia Tech.

Johnson, who has just two years left on his contract, made it clear that he's eager to stick with the Yellow Jackets for the long haul. He also knows that many top-level schools would not be inter-

ested in a coach who comes with own unique offense, no matter how much success he's had.

"I enjoy the players. I enjoy the school," he said. "It's been good here."

At 57, he's not about to change. It's the P.J. Way, take it or leave it.

AAC title could be divided 3 ways

By JOE KAY
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Memphis already has at least a share of the first football conference championship since 1971. The Tigers have to wait a few more days to see if they'll wind up all alone.

The American Athletic Conference could finish with a real pile-up at the top.

Central Florida can pull into a tie with Memphis by winning at East Carolina on Thursday. Then Cincinnati — the preseason pick to win it all — could make it a three-way split by beating Houston at Paul Brown Stadium on Saturday.

The 11-team league played its second season with an unbalanced schedule. There's no tiebreaker to decide an outright champion. The league will add Navy next season and divide into six-team divisions with a championship game.

"What a year this has been — a long year, looking back at the ups and downs," Cincinnati coach Tommy Tuberville said on Tuesday. "It's been an interesting year, one that I'll never forget, of all the different things that's happened."

Memphis (9-3, 7-1) provided the biggest surprise. The Tigers won at Cincinnati 41-14 on Oct. 4 to take control of the league race. They won their last six games — their longest winning streak since 1969

— for their first title since they were in the Missouri Valley Conference.

"To be able to be called champions feels so good," senior running back Brandon Hayes said. "I would never have guessed that we would end up like this."

It's definitely a great feeling and I can't wait to see where we get placed for this bowl game. The sky's the limit now."

UCF (8-3, 6-1) won the title last year and can share another with a win at East Carolina (8-3, 5-2) on Thursday night. The Knights are 14-1 in their two years of AAC play and beat Baylor in the Fiesta Bowl last season. They've never won back-to-back league titles.

"It would mean the world to me and these guys," linebacker Terrance Plummer said. "It's what our ultimate goal is every year and if we're able to achieve that, it will be very special to us. We'll be the first (UCF) team to win back-to-back conference championships."

East Carolina was the only AAC team to get ranked during the season, making it up to No. 18 in the AP poll during a six-week stay. The lack of ranked teams hurt the conference's national profile.

"I said that to our presidents and athletic directors at our fall meeting," Commissioner Mike Aresco said during a visit to Cincinnati last month. "It's a work in progress in football."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Ducks out to avenge only loss vs. Arizona

No. 3 Oregon eager to make up for early October upset

By ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

It's a rematch.

Although Oregon always preaches looking ahead to the next "nameless, faceless opponent," even Ducks coach Mark Helfrich says playing the in the Pac-12 championship on Friday against Arizona has more significance.

That's because Oregon's lone loss this season came against the Wildcats back on Oct. 2 at Autzen Stadium.

The No. 3 Ducks were already buzzing about No. 8 Arizona just minutes after their Civil War victory over rival Oregon State on Saturday night.

"We talked a little bit about preparing to give somebody our best shot. I would have said it about whoever was next," Helfrich said about his postgame message to the Ducks. "But certainly our guys know the 'coulda, woulda, shoulda' of some of that night."

Arizona (10-2, 7-2) clinched a spot in the league championship game this past Friday, when UCLA fell to Stanford and the Wildcats defeated Arizona State 42-35.

The Ducks (11-1, 8-1), who had earlier claimed the Pac-12 North, capped their regular season with the 47-19 victory over the Beavers in the 118th Civil War game.

The win held Oregon at No. 3 in the AP Top 25 on Sunday. The Ducks are ranked No. 2 in the College Football Playoff rankings behind Alabama, meaning that if they can beat Arizona they'll all but assured to be one of the four teams to make the cut for the first playoff.

Arizona jumped four spots to No. 8 in the latest AP poll for the team's highest ranking since 1999. The Wildcats are at No. 7 in the CFP rankings.

"The preparation is the same and that will be my message to the team today," Arizona coach Rich Rodriguez said Sunday.

"We talk about keeping the main thing the same, which is just getting ready to work every day, practice the way we practice, focus on your opponent and don't worry about things you can't control."

Back in October, freshman Nick Wilson ran for two touchdowns and caught a scoring pass from quarterback Anu Solomon in a 31-24 victory over the then-No. 2 Ducks.

Terris Jones-Grigsby plowed into the end zone from a yard out for the tiebreaking touchdown with 2:54 left, and Arizona held on after sacking Heisman hopeful Marcus Mariota and recovering his fumble.

In 2013, the Wildcats intercepted Mariota's pass on his first play from scrimmage, ending his Pac-12 record streak of 353 passes without a pick, and went on to rout then No. 5 Oregon 42-16 in Tucson. It was the Ducks' first loss to an unranked team since 2009.

Mariota, who had six touchdowns — four via pass and two keepers — in the Civil War victory over the Beavers, was staying on script for the Pac-12 championship. He said the Ducks would "continue to approach it like any other game."

"We're just going to play our game. Arizona did a great job setting and dictating tempo in the last meeting," he added. "If we go out and execute to the best of our abilities and execute the game plans that are put in front of us, we should hopefully be successful."

But Oregon wide receiver Byron Marshall wasn't shy about addressing what the rematch really means to the Ducks.

"Just to know that you lost to somebody, it just sits there and sits there," Marshall said. "You miss on, but you never forget. Now we have a time to right our wrong."



STEVE DYKES/AP

Arizona quarterback Anu Solomon, left, hugs Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota after their Oct. 2 game in Eugene, Ore. Arizona won, 31-24, the only blemish on the No. 3 Ducks' season and Mariota's bid for the Heisman Trophy.

Wildcats have history of thwarting Ducks' Mariota

By ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

For Arizona, it hasn't been a matter of stopping Marcus Mariota, just throwing him a bit off-kilter.

The Wildcats have defeated the Ducks in each of the last two seasons and coach Rich Rodriguez said that's because Arizona has been able to slow Oregon's star quarterback with three things: turnovers, effort and luck.

"If you look back at his stats, he got a lot of yards and big plays, but we got a couple turnovers. Some of it was great individual effort and some of it was a little bit of luck," Rodriguez said. "If you go back to this game or even the game last season, he still got his yards, and he is still going to get his yards and make his plays."

It appears all but certain at this point that Mariota will be among the Heisman Trophy finalists when they are announced on Dec. 8. But first the No. 3 Ducks (11-1, 8-1) must play the No. 8 Wildcats (10-2, 7-2) in the Pac-12 championship game on Friday night.

The mobile junior from Hawaii has thrown for at least one touchdown in each of the first 38 games he's played in at Oregon, an FBS-level record. He's only lost four games as Oregon's starter, but two of those came against Arizona.

He set a Pac-12 record this season with 48 total touchdowns, including 36 via pass, 11 keepers and one TD reception. He leads the nation with nine games of four or more touchdowns this season. His 36 touchdown passes are also an Oregon record.

Overall, Mariota has completed 229 of 334 passes for 3,470 yards and just



No. 8 Arizona (10-2, 7-2)
vs. No. 3 Oregon (11-1, 8-1)

AFN-Sports

3 a.m. Saturday CET

11 a.m. Saturday JKT

two interceptions, and he's the Ducks' second-leading rusher with 636 yards.

"I think Marcus has been one of the best quarterbacks in the country since he made his first start," Rodriguez said.

Arizona has been one of the schools to get to him. The Wildcats have intercepted him three times and forced him to fumble three times over the past three seasons.

Earlier this season, Mariota passed for 276 yards and a pair of touchdowns in a 31-24 home loss to Arizona. The Wildcats' victory had more to do with their ability to stop Oregon's rush than anything, but Scooby Wright sacked Mariota and stripped him of the ball for a turnover with 2:11 to play. It was Oregon's final drive of the game.

"It was a good play by him," Mariota said at the time. "They ran some coverage that we weren't really expecting, and I was just trying to make the play. My instincts always lead the ball to go low, and he kind of just ripped it away."

Arizona routed the Ducks 42-16 last year in Tucson. Mariota threw for 308 yards and two touchdowns, but also had two interceptions.

His first came on Oregon's first play from scrimmage, when Bralon Addison dropped a pass near the sideline. Arizona cornerback Shaquille Richardson snared the carom and flipped it back to Wright as he was falling out of bounds. Ka'Deem Carey followed with a 6-yard touchdown run to kick start the upset.

Afterward Mariota said: "It hurts. I haven't been blown out like this in my life."

In Mariota's first year — and Chip Kelly's last with the Ducks — Oregon blanked Arizona 49-0 at Autzen. Then a redshirt freshman, Mariota threw for 260 yards and two touchdowns, but he was intercepted once.

The Wildcats earned a spot in the league championship game last Friday when UCLA fell to Stanford and Arizona defeated rival Arizona State 42-35.

The Ducks closed out the regular season with a 47-19 victory over Oregon State. Oregon, while at No. 3 in the AP rankings, was No. 2 in the College Football Playoff rankings.

Should the Ducks defeat Arizona, they'll assuredly be one of the four teams included in the first playoffs.

Mariota is going to treat it like any other game.

"We're just going to play our game. Arizona did a great job setting and dictating tempo in the last meeting," he said. "If we go out and execute to the best of our abilities and execute the game plans that are put in front of us, we should hopefully be successful."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Alabama quarterback Blake Sims, right, runs into the end zone for a touchdown against Auburn defensive back Jonathan Jones during the second half of Saturday's game in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Alabama in a shootout? No problem these days

By JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — The final score was more Oregon or Baylor than Alabama.

The top-ranked Crimson Tide showed it can keep pace in a point-a-minute shootout with a 55-44 victory over Auburn that seemed so out of character from the typical 'Bama powerhouses built on running and defense.

Alabama (11-1) hasn't abandoned that formula so much as expanded on it heading into Saturday's Southeastern Conference championship game against No. 14 Missouri. Now, opponents have to prepare for some no-huddle, a heavy dose of receiver Amari Cooper and maybe even a shootout.

"I think it's scary for them," Tide safety Nick Perry said. "Usually 'Bama beats you with defense and running the ball. Now, we can play a whole different type of game. We can put up points or we can shut them down with defense. I think that's scary for other teams."

Sure, the high-scoring game was a rarity for coach Nick Saban's team, which did outscore Texas A&M 49-42 last season. It was the highest in combined points for an Alabama game since a 110-9 win over Marion Institute in 1922.

"The way we're headed in college football, there's going to be games like this, and you're going to have to be able to win games like this," Saban said.

Sometimes joining them makes it easier to beat them. That was the case in the Iron Bowl, when Alabama's defense, which came in as the league's top unit,



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Alabama wide receiver Amari Cooper, right, has benefitted from a more up-tempo offense under first-year coordinator Lane Kiffin.

couldn't contain Auburn's no-huddle attack.

The reverse was true, also, when the Tide upped the tempo.

Not a sentence uttered very often: Alabama gave up 630 yards and won.

Alabama has opened things up some under first-year offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin, a finalist for the Broyles Award given to the nation's top assistant coach.

Quarterback Blake Sims has passed for 2,988 yards. Cooper has demolished school records with 103 catches for 1,373 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Saban said Alabama started adopting the "fastball" style at times because Sims thrived when the Tide went no-huddle.

He was even urging Kiffin to throw downfield more in the first half against Auburn. Kiffin listened.

Cooper had touchdown catches of 39 and 75 yards in the third quarter. The Heisman Trophy candidate has been the primary beneficiary among Kiffin's playmakers, but fellow receiver DeAndrew White is enjoying being along for the ride in this offense, too.

Missouri winning minus wow factor

By R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — At the halfway point, Missouri's season was on the verge of ruin.

Losing to lightly regarded Indiana at home was one thing. Just one of those stinkers to be shrugged off.

Getting smoked 34-0 by Georgia two weeks later while the student body retreated back to the dorms was the true turning point. The Tigers were 4-2 after the loss, seemingly on the way to justifying preseason predictions that the defending SEC Eastern Division champions had nothing for an encore.

Emotions in the locker room were raw.

"It was tough. It was rough," quarterback Maty Mauk said. "Personally, I'd never been shut out in my life and I know a lot of other people hadn't, either. How we bounced back, that's how you want it to be."

Coach Gary Pinkel let players know he believed in them, but also put his foot down hard. Committing five turnovers had him really riled.

"I didn't flip out on them," Pinkel said. "I said, 'Everybody's frustrated, disappointed. But we have a chance to do something about it.'" He added: "I think we can be really good still."

There has been no real wow factor about Missouri this season. But there has been no looking back since that game, either. The key drive, the critical stop, the game-changing takeaways — it's all been there just enough to keep the program rolling.



SEC championship
Missouri vs. Alabama
AFN-Sports
10 p.m. Saturday CET
6 a.m. Sunday JKT

The Tigers' finest quality, perhaps, is perseverance.

Missouri (10-2) is ranked 14th and totes a six-game winning streak into Saturday's conference title game against top-ranked Alabama (11-1) in Atlanta. Last week's comeback from an 11-point halftime deficit to beat Arkansas and repeat as top dog in the East was the latest, hard-earned triumph typical of the second half of the season.

They're far from the high-scoring outfit to which the Tigers have become accustomed, topping 40 points just once and leaning on a defense that could be Pinkel's best in 14 seasons. They began their current six-game winning streak with a 42-13 victory at Florida but the last five have been decided by 10 or fewer points.

They led Vanderbilt by three points late in the fourth quarter before Bud Sasser's 25-yard touchdown catch, trailed Texas A&M by a touchdown in the third quarter before charging ahead on two touchdown runs by Russell Hansbrough, and pulled ahead to stay after halftime at Tennessee.



L.G. PATTERSON/AP

Missouri running back Marcus Murphy, right, drags Arkansas' Rohan Gaines into the end zone as he scores the winning touchdown during the fourth quarter on Nov. 28 in Columbia, Mo.

NFL



L.G. PATTERSON/AP

St. Louis Rams tight end Jared Cook (89) said he and his teammates would "absolutely" repeat the "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" gesture he and four teammates made before last Sunday's game against the Oakland Raiders.

Cook: Players would protest all over again

By R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Jared Cook said he'd "absolutely" repeat the "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" gesture he and four teammates made during Sunday's game.

Even if he's receiving threats or it costs the St. Louis Rams fans.

The tight end was designated spokesman Wednesday for the five-player group that made the gesture before Sunday's win over Oakland. He explained it was not just a show of solidarity for Ferguson protesters but for peaceful demonstrations everywhere.

Asked in hindsight whether the group might have taken a different tack that wouldn't have antagonized law enforcement officials, he answered: "We could have, absolutely. But would we? Absolutely not."

Players met with coach Jeff Fisher and Cook said they weren't asked to refrain from further displays. But he didn't think they'd do it again in the team's two remaining home games.

"I think we kind of got our point across," Cook said Wednesday night. "Especially now, I think the world understands a little more why we did it."

Cook, Kenny Britt, Tavon Austin, Stedman Bailey and Chris Givens realize they've become polarizing figures, and that some fans may stay away.

"I understand that," Cook said. "They have to understand that we're ambassadors for them as well as other parts of St. Louis. It's a common place for people to get together and have fun. It's the Edward Jones Dome, baby. The greatest show on turf, baby. How could you not want to have fun and enjoy that?"

The pose has overshadowed the Rams' overpowering showing in a 52-0 rout over Oakland the last few days. The St. Louis Police Officers Association expressed outrage, Fisher said there'd be no disciplinary action any. Top team executive denied he'd apologized to law enforcement officials.

"Hands Up, Don't Shoot" is not just a Ferguson thing, it's a worldwide thing," Cook said. "People are doing it in New York, people are doing it in Florida, people are doing it on the West Coast."

It's a message worldwide that you can do things peacefully without getting out of line."

Ex-Browns set for homecoming

Colts have multiple players making their return to Cleveland

By JIM JOHNSON
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Trent Richardson remembers the day he walked through the front doors of Cleveland's training facility for the first time. He was wearing the suit he wore on when the Browns called his name with the third pick in the 2012 draft.

Pat Shurmur, the head coach of the Browns at the time, met him at the door with a big smile on his face, Richardson recalled.

"It was one of those feelings that I didn't think I would ever be playing with another team," he said. "I thought I would always be there and it would be the last team I ever played for. But it happened like it happened."

The Colts acquired the running back from the Browns on Sept. 18, 2013, for a first-round draft pick — a move that "shocked" Richardson. Now, he and three other Colts players are headed to Cleveland this Sunday for a game against a team, and franchise, they know well.

Return specialist Josh Cribbs, who joined the Colts last month as a free agent, signed with the Browns as an undrafted free agent in 2005. Safety Mike Adams played for the Browns for five seasons and D'Qwell Jackson was drafted by the team in 2006 before he suffered two season-ending injuries.

Heck, Colts coach Chuck Pagano's first four years in the league as an assistant were in Cleveland.

Cribbs left Cleveland after the 2012 season with a handful of records, including the all-time franchise marks in kickoff returns, kickoff return yards, and return touchdowns. Jackson is looking forward to the opportunity to face his former team, but says there won't be any time to spend with friends and former teammates.

"I'm not going to change what I do," Jackson said. "In the offseason, if I go back, I'll have dinner with some guys, but right now it's a business trip and that's the only thing that's on my mind."

For Richardson, it's different.



SAM RICHETNS

Indianapolis running back Trent Richardson will make his return to Cleveland on Sunday for the first time since being traded to the Colts last season. The Browns drafted Richardson No. 3 overall in the 2012 NFL Draft.

What he thought would be a long and successful career in Cleveland has been everything but what he expected. "Things haven't been the same since the Colts acquired him last year and now Richardson is looking for a breakout game this week against the team that drafted him — and traded him.

"They gave up on me," Richardson said in a conference call with Browns media on Wednesday. "I'm going to go into this game

like it's my last."

Richardson has struggled to make the ball in Indy, and the Colts have been criticized for the move and questioned for sticking with the former Alabama star.

Pagano made it clear the Colts plan to rely on Richardson as their starter.

"There's going to be good days and there's going to be bad days," Pagano said. "He's had some days that have been very, very productive and some tough days."

Kelly's offense no secret to Carroll

By TIM BOOTH
The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Pete Carroll never lost much when he was at Southern Cal. And on those rare occasions when the Trojans lost, they were competitive.

In his first 110 games at USC, Carroll never suffered a loss by more than 11 points.

But on Halloween night 2009, in the 11th game of Carroll's tenure, the Trojans were handed a 27-point beating by Chip Kelly and Oregon. If not for USC's equally eye-popping blowout loss to Stanford later that season, that loss to Kelly would have been Carroll's worst setback as a collegiate coach.

No wonder Carroll has so much admiration for Kelly's different and successful approach as a head coach — first at Oregon and now in Philadelphia — with the Se-

ahawks (8-4) traveling to face the Eagles (9-3) on Sunday.

"I have tremendous respect for the innovation," Carroll said. "I don't know the history of how this works but I think he has been as much an innovator in the game as anybody in college football."

Carroll and Kelly, along with San Francisco's Jim Harbaugh, are the most recent examples of coaches making the leap from college to having immediate success in the NFL. Harbaugh reached the NFC championship game three straight years; Kelly won the NFC East in his first season; and Carroll has a Super Bowl ring.

Much of Kelly's success at Oregon was



Carroll

because of the high-tempo offense that led to easy touchdowns for the Ducks. That was evident the one time Carroll and Kelly met on the field when the Ducks dominated. USC trailed 24-17 at halftime before getting blitzed 23-3 in the second half of Oregon's 47-20 win. If not for Harbaugh's Stanford team beating the Trojans by 34 points later that season, Kelly would have posted the largest margin of victory over Carroll during his USC tenure.

Even though they met only once in college, Kelly visited Carroll and the Seahawks during his time at Oregon.

"When you're a college coach, you take a lot of visits during the spring and you watch people during the spring practice, but I always wanted to visit people in-season because you obviously practice different in the spring than you do in the fall," Kelly said. "I was just fortunate I knew Pete."



GAMEDAY

WEEK 14

TELEVIEWED GAMES



Pittsburgh Steelers (7-5)
at Cincinnati Bengals (8-3-1)

AFN-Sports
7 p.m. Sunday CET
3 a.m. Monday JKT
Series: Pittsburgh leads 53-34, including six of the past eight.
Last meeting: Steelers beat the visiting Bengals 30-20 on Dec. 15, 2013.

Notes: Steelers RB Le'Veon Bell ranks second in the NFL with 1,689 scrimmage yards (1,046 rushing, 643 receiving) ... WR Antonio Brown leads the league with 1,258 receiving yards ... Bengals are 13-1-1 in their past 15 regular-season home games.



Indianapolis Colts (8-4)
at Cleveland Browns (7-5)

AFN-Atlantic
7 p.m. Sunday CET
3 a.m. Monday JKT
Series: Browns lead 14-13; Colts have won six of the past seven.
Last meeting: Indianapolis beat visiting Cleveland 17-13 on Oct. 21, 2012.

Notes: Colts QB Andrew Luck is one of three NFL players to pass for 4,000 yards in two of their first three seasons (Peyton Manning, Dan Marino) ... In his 15 starts, Browns QB Brian Hoyer is 10-5 with 3,671 passing yards and 16 TDs.

Marquee matchup

Seattle Seahawks (8-4) at Philadelphia Eagles (9-3)

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. Sunday CET, 6 a.m. Monday JKT

SERIES RECORD: Eagles lead 7-6; Seahawks have won three of the past four.
LAST MEETING: Seahawks beat the Eagles 31-14 at Seattle on Dec. 1, 2011.
SEAHAWKS OFFENSE: OVERALL (13), RUSH (1), PASS (25)
SEAHAWKS DEFENSE: OVERALL (1), RUSH (5), PASS (3)
EAGLES OFFENSE: OVERALL (4), RUSH (6), PASS (5).
EAGLES DEFENSE: OVERALL (24), RUSH (12) PASS (26).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: Seahawks QB Russell Wilson has a 110.9 rating (4 TDs, 0 INTs) in the past three games ... In two meetings with the Eagles, RB Marshawn Lynch has rushed for 253 yards and 2 TDs. He needs 44 yards and 1 TD to rush for 1,000 yards and 10 TDs for a fourth consecutive season ... WR Doug Baldwin leads the team with 48 catches and 519 receiving yards ... CB Richard Sherman had 2 INTs last week. Since entering the league in 2011, he leads the NFL with 23 picks ... The Eagles have won 10 in a row at home ... They have won four of five games when QB Mark Sanchez played, including four starts ... RB LeSean McCoy has 289 rushing yards and 2 TDs in the past two games ... RB Darren Sproles has 4 TDs in his past three home games ... WR Jeremy Maclin has 1,088 receiving yards, his first 1,000-yard season ... WR Jordan Matthews has 5 TDs in the past five games.



The Eagles have fared well in games started by quarterback Mark Sanchez.

Tim Sharpe/AP

Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com



Kansas City Chiefs (7-5)
at Arizona Cardinals (9-3)

AFN-Xtra
10 p.m. Sunday CET
6 a.m. Monday JKT
Series: Kansas City leads 8-2-1, including the past three.
Last meeting: The Chiefs beat the visiting Cardinals 31-13 on Nov. 21, 2010.

Notes: Chiefs LB Justin Houston has 12 sacks and 2 forced fumbles in the past 10 games. He needs 1 sack to join Derrick Thomas, Jared Allen and Neil Smith as the only KC players with 15-plus in a season ... The Cardinals are 6-0 at home for the first time since 1970.



New England Patriots (9-3)
at San Diego Chargers (8-4)

AFN-Sports
2:20 a.m. Monday CET
10:20 a.m. Monday JKT
Series: New England leads 20-14-2, including three of the past four.
Last meeting: The Patriots beat the visiting Chargers 35-21 on Sept. 18, 2011.

Notes: The Patriots need a win to join the San Francisco 49ers (1983-98) as the only NFL teams to win 10-plus games in 12 consecutive seasons ... Chargers QB Philip Rivers needs four passing TDs to join HOFer Dan Fouts (254) as the only Chargers with 250.

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

N.Y. Giants at Tennessee
Carolina at New Orleans
N.Y. Jets at Minnesota
St. Louis at Washington
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Houston at Jacksonville
San Francisco at Oakland
Atlanta at Green Bay

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Dec. 11
Arizona at St. Louis
Sunday, Dec. 14
Oakland at Kansas City
Pittsburgh at Atlanta
Washington at N.Y. Giants
Miami at New England
Houston at Indianapolis
Jacksonville at Baltimore
Green Bay at Buffalo
Tampa Bay at Carolina
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Denver at San Diego
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee
San Francisco at Seattle
Minnesota at Detroit
Dallas at Philadelphia
Monday, Dec. 15
New Orleans at Chicago

Also on AFN: Baltimore Ravens (7-5) at Miami Dolphins (7-5), AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday CET, 3 a.m. Monday JKT.
Buffalo Bills (7-5) at Denver Broncos (9-3), AFN-Atlantic, 10 p.m. Sunday CET, 6 a.m. Monday JKT.

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	West	AFC	NFC	Div
New England	9	3	0	.750	378	253	6-0-0	3-3-0	6-2-0
Miami	7	5	0	.583	301	232	3-2-0	4-3-0	6-3-0
Buffalo	7	5	0	.583	264	217	4-3-0	3-2-0	4-5-0
N.Y. Jets	2	10	0	.167	190	313	2-5-0	0-5-0	2-7-0
Indianapolis	8	4	0	.667	382	263	5-2-0	3-2-0	6-3-0
Houston	6	6	0	.500	287	247	3-3-0	3-3-0	5-3-0
Tennessee	2	10	0	.167	213	338	1-4-0	1-6-0	2-7-0
Jacksonville	2	10	0	.167	186	329	2-4-0	0-6-0	1-7-0
Cincinnati	8	3	1	.708	260	247	4-1-1	4-2-0	5-3-0
Baltimore	7	5	0	.583	328	242	4-2-0	3-3-0	5-5-0
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	.583	320	298	4-2-0	3-3-0	6-3-0
Cleveland	7	5	0	.583	252	245	4-2-0	3-3-0	4-5-0
Denver	9	3	0	.750	361	276	6-0-0	3-3-0	7-1-2
San Diego	8	4	0	.667	279	249	5-1-0	3-3-0	6-3-0
Kansas City	7	5	0	.583	277	224	4-2-0	3-3-0	5-4-0
Oakland	1	11	0	.083	176	337	1-5-0	0-6-0	1-8-0

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	West	NFC	AFC	Div
Philadelphia	9	3	0	.750	375	285	6-0-0	3-3-0	5-3-0
Dallas	8	4	0	.667	302	273	3-4-0	5-0-0	5-4-0
N.Y. Giants	3	9	0	.250	257	319	2-4-0	1-5-0	2-7-0
Washington	3	9	0	.250	244	322	3-3-0	1-6-0	1-7-0
Atlanta	5	7	0	.417	291	299	3-3-0	2-4-0	5-4-0
New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	323	318	3-3-0	2-4-0	4-4-0
Carolina	3	8	1	.292	228	331	2-4-0	1-4-1	3-6-0
Tampa Bay	2	10	0	.167	220	314	0-6-0	2-4-0	1-7-0
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	380	267	6-0-0	3-3-0	6-3-0
Detroit	8	4	0	.667	331	207	5-1-0	3-3-0	6-2-0
Chicago	5	7	0	.417	253	332	2-3-0	3-4-0	4-4-0
Minnesota	5	7	0	.417	233	257	3-3-0	2-4-0	5-5-0
Arizona	9	3	0	.750	259	224	6-0-0	3-3-0	7-2-0
Seattle	8	4	0	.667	298	221	5-1-0	3-3-0	6-2-0
San Francisco	7	5	0	.583	231	244	3-3-0	4-2-0	6-4-0
St. Louis	5	7	0	.417	261	285	3-3-0	2-4-0	3-5-0

SPORTS



Remember us?

Colts have quartet of ex-Browns set to make return to Cleveland | **Page 62**



Through it all

Constant chaos the norm for Winston, Seminoles

Defending champs tune out distractions to focus on No. 12 Georgia Tech | **Page 59**

Inside: ■ Alabama ready to score, **Page 61** ■ Ducks out for revenge, **Page 60**

